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INTERVENTION IN BEHALF OF POLAND.

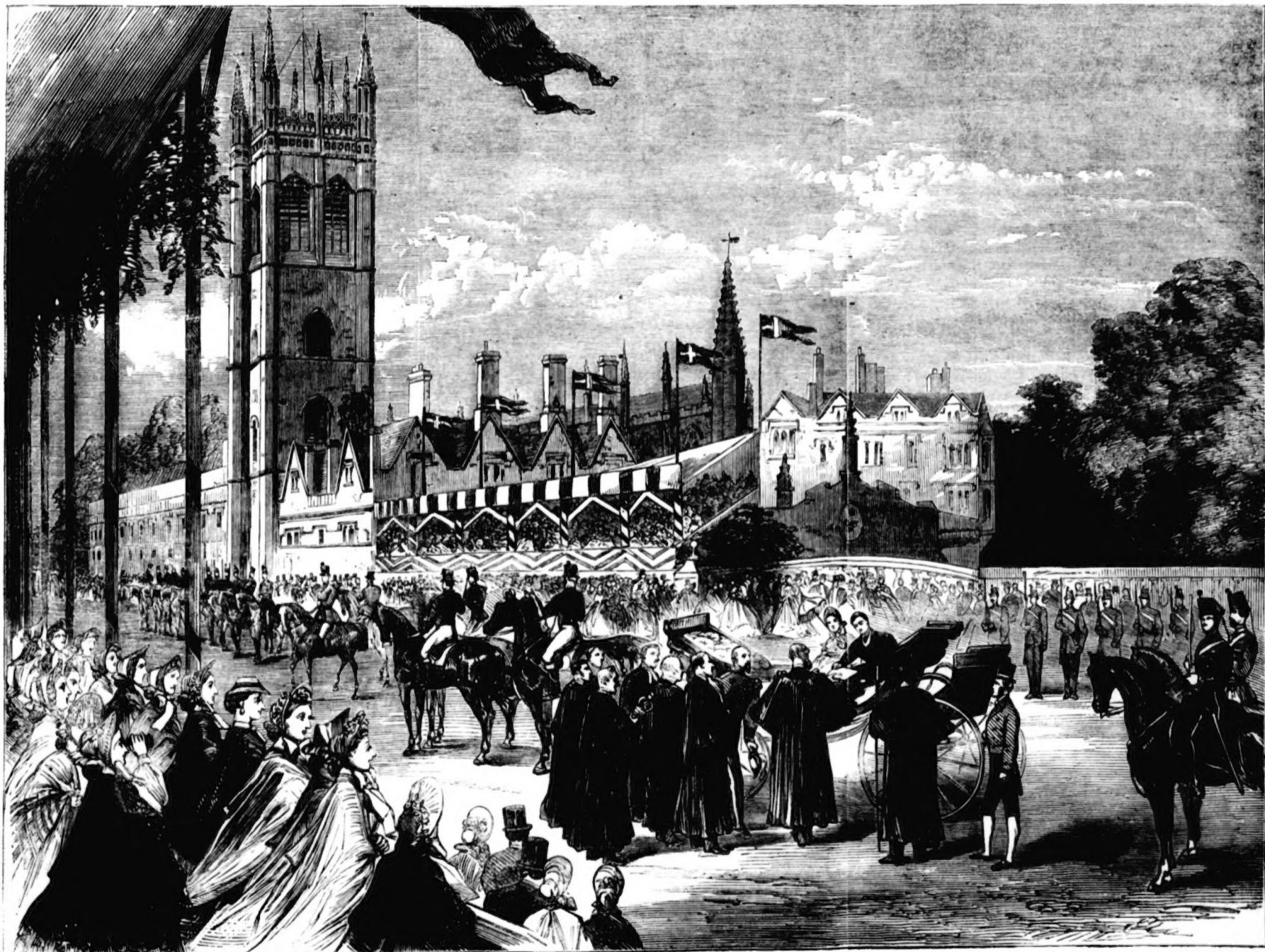
THE House of Commons acted judiciously in declining to enter upon a discussion of the affairs of Poland on Monday night. The whole question was not ripe for Parliamentary debate then, nor will it be till the reply of Russia to the propositions of the three Powers is received. Newspaper criticism upon imperfect information, while it is inconvenient, is often unavoidable; but the two Houses should have all possible information before them ere they enter upon the discussion of so grave a topic as the existing state of Poland, otherwise much of the weight attaching to the deliverances of Parliament is lost. This is more especially the case in the present instance, as a few days will probably put honourable members in a position to thoroughly consider the subject as a whole. Mere talk may not, as Lord Palmerston said, do much harm, but it can do as little good; and if, as the Premier also stated, a decision upon the subject would be likely to stop negotiations altogether, then both talk and decision are better left over till the House is really in a position to pronounce a definite and authoritative opinion. We cannot, therefore, regret the postponement of the Polish debate; but as the propositions of the three Powers are now in substance before the world, it becomes our duty as journalists to consider their character and bearing.

Briefly stated, the proposals submitted to Russia are these:—
1. A complete and general amnesty. 2. National representation according to the Constitution granted by Alexander I. in 1815. 3. Nomination in Poland of a separate and national administration having the confidence of the country. 4. Full and entire liberty of conscience, and repeal of the restrictions on Catholic worship. 5. The Polish language to be acknowledged in the kingdom as the official language for administration, law, and education. 6. A regular and legal system of recruiting, and a suspension of hostilities, as the only good basis for negotiation.

We are willing to allow that the Governments of England, France, and Austria are actuated by an honest and sincere desire to see the condition of Poland ameliorated, and it is quite certain that the peoples of the two first-named countries, at least, heartily sympathise with the Poles, and would rejoice to see them governed in a more humane and rational manner, if not, indeed, to have their national independence restored. But there are grave difficulties in the way of attaining even the least of these measures. In the first place, are the propositions submitted to Russia such as she is likely to accept? secondly, if she does accept them, are they calculated to secure the object in view more effectually than the Treaty of 1815 has done? thirdly, supposing that Russia rejects the terms proposed,

are the intervening Powers prepared to go to war to enforce their views? and, lastly, are the Poles likely to acquiesce in these propositions?

Each of these points is worthy of careful consideration. For our own part, we doubt whether Russia will accept the proposals of the three Powers. They appear to us to be too bitter, too humiliating, for her to swallow; and, if disposed flatly to reject them, she has, from her point of view, a very cogent answer. She can say, "All this means the reconstruction of the kingdom of Poland and the abrogation of the power of the Czar there; whereas, our policy is to absorb Poland into Russia, and, with all deference to other Governments, we prefer our own policy to theirs." It is possible, however, that Prince Gortschakoff may propose modifications of the six points submitted to him; and modification means further negotiation and delay; delay means renewed opportunities of quelling the rebellion; and the more Russia succeeds in wholly or partially accomplishing that end, the less will she be disposed to listen to outside advice. But it may be objected that delay may be as favourable to the Poles as to the Russians. We doubt this, although the Poles may not be able to see the matter in the same light as we do. The Czar has every advantage—save that of being in the right—on his side. He has command of the "big battalions;" he has money and



VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES TO OXFORD.—THEIR RECEPTION BY THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION.—SEE PAGE 439.

material in greater abundance than his opponents have; he has the means of creating disunion among the people, means which emissaries have not scrupled to use, and with some measure of success; he has the prestige of previous success in quelling similar movements, and that sort of prescriptive right which is derived from possession and the consent of neighbouring States. Against all this, the Poles can only oppose the deep sense of the wrongs they have suffered, and the courage and pertinacity produced by despair of improvement in their treatment. These sentiments are not devoid of power. They may enable the Poles to do much. They may nerve them to maintain a state of chronic warfare in the bosom of the Russian Empire, to continue the struggle for a longer or shorter period, and to weaken and debilitate their oppressor while they themselves are being crushed; but we fear they are not sufficient to cope with the power of the Northern Colossus. Indeed, that the leaders of the Polish movement are to some degree conscious of this themselves, is proved by the fact that from its commencement they have looked for aid from without, and are even now turning their eyes wistfully towards France and England—and especially France—to see what these Powers are disposed to do for them. Altogether, we are afraid the Czar and his advisers are too confident in their own power to ultimately crush the Poles to accept propositions so little to their taste as those which have just been submitted to them.

And should these propositions be rejected, as we believe they in effect will be, are the three Powers disposed to go to war to enforce them? So far as this country at least is concerned, we may safely answer "No." The people of England are by no means anxious for another Russian war, at least on behalf of a country whose sufferings and wrongs, however gross and unjustifiable, influence us in a sentimental way only. We by no means deprecate the feeling of sympathy which actuates Englishmen in regard to Poland, and we do not underrate the value of the expression of that sympathy; but we have to deal with hard realities, and we repeat that Great Britain will not go to war merely for a sentiment, and we are anxious that the Poles should not be misled into thinking that she will. Neither will Austria engage in such a crusade; she has too much to lose and too little to gain in a contest with Russia. But there remains France. What will she do? Well, it is difficult to guess what course France may take. A war with Russia would be popular with the army and with a large portion of the people of France, with whom the resuscitation of Poland has been a favourite idea since the days of the First Napoleon, and their generous impulses might induce them to make sacrifices to realise it. Still the Emperor has already a good deal of work upon his hands. He must be sensible that it would be no slight task to accomplish that which his great uncle failed to do; the pretence of going to war for an idea is exploded; and Napoleon must be aware that no real advantage could accrue to France except at the expense of Prussia, and that that would at once place him in a position of antagonism to most of the other Powers of Europe. No; Russia has small reason to fear war if she rejects the counsels of the three Powers.

But supposing Russia should be disposed to temporise, and to seemingly accept the advice of the three Powers, what guarantee is there that she would adhere with better faith, when existing troubles are past, to the arrangements to be made now than to those entered into in 1815? She was then bound by treaty obligations, which she violated. What is to prevent her entering upon similar treaty obligations again, and again violating them? A pretext was found for breaking through the arrangements of 1815, and a pretext would also be found, if wanted, for breaking any arrangements made in 1863.

There remain, however, several questions of greater difficulty than any of the above still to be considered. Will the Poles acquiesce in the proposed settlement of their affairs? How are their sentiments to be ascertained? Who are to speak on their behalf? and to what portions of the country once called Poland are the stipulations to be extended? What the Polish leaders have proclaimed as the object they aim at, what they have taken up arms to accomplish, and what so many of the people have died for, in the independence of Poland; not an ameliorated condition under the rule of the Czar, but a perfectly independent, national existence, and that not for a portion only, but for the whole of Poland. And in this view they are, perhaps, right; they have had too painful experience of what Russian domination is to be willing again to submit to it. At all events, what means have we of inducing them to trust themselves once more to the tender mercies of the Czar after having been so often and so grievously deceived? But a practical difficulty presents itself at the very threshold of the discussion. How is the Russian Government to agree to an armistice when they know not who it is that guides the movements of the Polish patriots? The Polish National Committee affects to act on behalf of the nation, and, seemingly, the nation obeys it; but is this an authority with which Russia can deal, and would it be wise in the members of that committee to reveal themselves, and so show to the Czar's myrmidons by whom it is, and how, that they are opposed and baffled? This would be a valuable piece of information, indeed, of which the Grand Duke Constantine and his advisers at Warsaw would not be slow to avail themselves. Russia, it is true, might proclaim an armistice, and declare that she would suspend at once her military operations and those executions which she is accused of carrying out in so ruthless a manner; but this she is not at all likely to do, as it would simply be tying her own hands while those of her antagonist were left free; and how an armistice is to be mutually arranged, and an ultimate reconciliation effected, with no ostensible, or at all events recognised, body to negotiate with, we really cannot see.

Altogether, while sincerely sympathising with the Poles, and anxious to see their condition amended, we must confess that we see no chance of the reconstitution of their independence, very little light to guide Europe out of this Polish imbroglio, and slight probability that the propositions recently sent to St. Petersburg will produce that break in the clouds which is so earnestly to be desired.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The long-anticipated changes in the Ministry have at length been made. Count Walewski, Count Persigny, M. Rouland, and M. Delangle have resigned. M. Billault is appointed Minister of State in place of M. Walewski; M. Baroche, Minister of Justice; M. Boudet, Minister of the Interior; M. Duruy, Minister of Education; M. Behic, Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works; M. Rouher, Minister-President of the Council of State; and M. De Morny, President of the Corps Législatif. MM. Billault and Baroche in their new functions are to continue to act as "talking Ministers," some portion of the administrative duties ordinarily attaching to their offices being transferred to other hands in order to leave them leisure still to plead the cause of the Government in the two Chambers.

The removal of M. Walewski, whose opinions in favour of a war on behalf of the Poles are well known, and the retention of M. Fould, the advocate of a peace policy, are generally regarded as favourable to the maintenance of peace, notwithstanding the continued warlike preparations, reports of which continually arrive.

ITALY.

The result of the debate in the Italian Chamber of Deputies was a vote of confidence in the Ministry by a large majority. In the course of the debate Signor Ratazzi stated that Signor Minghetti, the present Prime Minister, had been at one time willing to accept office in the Cabinet of Ratazzi. This was flatly contradicted by Minghetti, who declared the statement "false, utterly false." As the Minister declined to retract this denial, Signor Ratazzi sent him a challenge, and a hostile meeting took place in the Royal Park at Stupinig, on the morning of the 21st. The combat was fought with sabres, and after two or three passes, Signor Ratazzi was slightly wounded in the arm; after which the affair ended.

The apprehension of several brigand chiefs, among them Tristany, is reported.

AUSTRIA.

The following is a summary of the speech delivered on the part of the Emperor at the opening of the Reichsrath on the 18th inst.

The Emperor made a satisfactory retrospect of the activity of the Reichsrath, and expressed a hope that Transylvania would also shortly take part in its deliberations. His Majesty continued:—

The Reichsrath closed its first Session under the blessings of peace, which the Government will endeavour to maintain undisturbed. Thanks to the liberal institutions of the empire, its material and intellectual life is everywhere being rapidly developed, and its influence and position as a great Power are continually becoming more powerful. The financial condition of the empire is becoming more and more satisfactory. The credit of the State and the public currency have most decidedly improved. It has been unnecessary to apply for any extraordinary credit during the current year. The Budget which will be submitted to you has been prepared with a view to the greatest possible economy. Bills relative to taxation will be submitted to you, the object of which is to re-establish the currency on a thoroughly sound basis. Bills will also be introduced upon the reform of the administration of justice. As regards the administration of penal law more especially, these reforms will comprise oral proceedings, publicity, and trial by jury. The bills for the reform of the civil law relative to bankruptcy, the private arrangement of debts, and the right of domicile.

The draughts of the addresses of both Houses of the Reichsrath, in reply to the speech from the Throne, advocate German Federal reform and a policy of justice for Poland.

PRUSSIA.

The King has arrived at Carlsbad, accompanied by several of the Ministers. Political affairs in Prussia remain unchanged, the Government being still active in repressing all expression of opinion, either through the journals or otherwise.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The Lord High Commissioner, Sir Henry Storks, published a proclamation on the 18th announcing the annexation of the Ionian Islands to Greece, as proposed by England, after which a Te Deum was sung, and general illuminations took place in the evening.

MEXICO.

The French are progressing in Mexico. It is still believed that the approaches to the city of Mexico will be vigorously defended. With the view of facilitating commercial operations in Mexico General Forey has decided that merchandise consigned to ports occupied by the French, and destined for portions of the country in French occupation, shall only pay half of the import duty to which they are liable by the regular tariff.

Buenos Ayres.

Civil war has broken out in the Argentine Republic. General Penazola, with the bands under his command, holds the country in the province of Rioja, while his Lieutenants (Clavero and Outivero) have raised the standard of revolt in five other provinces—especially in those of San Luis and Cordova. It was at first reported that the forces of the Government had been routed by the rebels, but the latest intelligence, received by way of Monte Video, states as certain that Penazola's guerrillas have been defeated by the regular troops.

IN THE COURSE of twenty months, with the exception of the tunnel through the Appennines at Gonza, Naples will be connected by railway with Bologna, Milan, and Turin.

LOSS OF THE NORWEGIAN.—Another Canadian steamer has been lost. The Norwegian, sister ship to the ill-fated Anglo-Saxon, went ashore on St. Paul's Island, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, on the night of the 14th instant. Fortunately the passengers, crew, and mails were saved. The Norwegian sailed from Liverpool for Montreal on the 5th. She is the seventh steamer that the company has lost since its formation.

THE AMERICAN OIL-WELLS.—The accounts from America regarding the petroleum trade show that it continues to augment so as to realise the predictions put forth at its commencement. The total exportation of the produce of the Pennsylvanian wells, from the 1st of January to the end of May, has been 15,169,383 gallons against 4,234,630 gallons in the corresponding months of 1862, and the consumption, it is said, will now receive a further impulse from success having been attained in adapting the moderator lamp to its use, and in the preparation of the oil so as to render it entirely indorables.

DESOLATION IN MISSISSIPPI.—A correspondent writes from Young's Point:—"The whole country from Milliken's Bend to Hard Pines, opposite Grand Gulf, a distance of sixty miles, is one 'abomination of desolation.' It has been an earthly paradise; lordly palaces filled with pictures, statues, and articles of virtù, beautiful gardens, teeming with floral beauties, are now all laid waste. In those magnificent halls where Southern beauty and chivalry were wont to revel, soldiers cook their despised 'sow belly' with fires built out of rosewood chairs and curiously-carved furniture, sleep on cotton beds worth \$50 each, and in the morning abandon all to the hordes of fifty hungry negroes, who follow the army and gather its refuse, like troops of unclean birds which smell the carcass from afar. Among these rich nabobs none exceed the Hon. John Perkins. His dwelling is magnificent even in its ruins, and his gardens are still fragrant with acres of roses. When General Butler entered New Orleans he chartered the Magnolia, one of the largest boats on the river, put his most valuable slaves, pictures, plate, cattle, &c., on board, and set fire to the rest. For seven miles his lands blazed with 5000 bales of burning cotton and granaries of corn. His house, with furniture which cost 200,000 dollars in Paris, and the houses of his overseers, all were fired, while he stood on the bank and watched the mighty conflagration. In the morning he embarked a ruined man. I had never dreamed of such Arabian magnificence as I find in the ruins of the houses of these rich planters. In one garden I found no less than seven hundred varieties of roses. This is, I believe, the largest collection in America. There are no more than three in Europe that equal it."

THE INSURRECTION IN POLAND.

VARIOUS accounts of battles between the insurgent Poles and the Russian troops are brought by the telegraph. The insurgents seem in general to have the best; but it would be idle to attempt to estimate the real value of the successes on either side. The one thing certain is that the rebellion still makes head.

Frankowski, one of the Polish insurgent leaders, has been hanged at Lublin. He had been severely wounded, and the Russian authorities, with their customary humanity, waited until his wounds were healed before they hanged him.

General Mouravieff, the Governor of Wilna, Kovno, Grodno, and Minak, has addressed a letter to M. Krasinski, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the first-mentioned city, in which he boasts of having hanged one priest and sent another to Siberia. "Several other priests," says the barbarous satrap, "are in the hands of the military judges, and they will be proceeded against with all the severity of the law." The same man, a fortnight ago, told a German of his acquaintance that he had been sent to Lithuania to *aufrümen* (clear away rubbish). In an order of the day which was issued on the 24th of May, General Annenkov, the commander in the military district of Kiev, informs the troops that corps composed of Cossacks and peasants have been formed. "The booty taken from the rebels," says Annenkov,

Shall be thus disposed of:—The horses shall be given to the peasants. The cattle and provisions taken are to be divided between the troops and the peasants if the former are in need of supplies, but if not they shall be given to the latter. Money, objects of value, weapons, munitions of war, and prisoners are to be delivered up to the military authorities. When Cossacks co-operate with other troops they are to have all those objects which they themselves have obtained possession of.

After having thus roused the cupidity of the Cossacks and peasants, the Russian General prohibits robbery and depredation.

By private accounts from Volhynia we learn that, on the 14th inst., orders were given to arm one third of the peasants and to draught them into the militia regiments. After the battle of Luban the Adjutant-General Kolsakoff gave orders that the prisoners and the wounded should be buried in the same grave with the dead, and the Russian soldiers readily obeyed the instructions they had received. In Dunaburg and Warsaw so many insurgents have recently been hanged that even Austrian military men, who are not over chary of human life, begin to express indignation and disgust.

The movements of troops in Russia are daily becoming more important. This is especially the case in the Government of St. Petersburg, which is incessantly traversed by troops on their way to the Baltic provinces and to the western part of the empire. The Russian army in Poland is raised to 150,000 regular soldiers, and is daily augmented. The greatest activity prevails in the fortresses, the arsenals, and the dépôts. All the Baltic forts are armed and placed in a state of defence. Cronstadt and all the naval dockyards present a very animated spectacle. The officers and soldiers on leave are rejoining their respective regiments. The city of St. Petersburg is surrounded with a *cordon militaire*; the examination of the passports of the persons arriving is very scrupulous, and the luggage of persons leaving is subjected to a severe examination, as the export of lead, sulphur, and scythes is absolutely forbidden. The engineers had decided some time ago to raze the fortifications of Narva, and the works had already commenced; but on the 8th the order arrived to stop the demolition, and to rebuild what had been destroyed. It has been observed for some time that the insurgents frequently attack the Russians in the neighbourhood of railway lines, and that they impede communication upon the line from Berlin to St. Petersburg, especially upon the section between Kowno and Wilna.

The *Invalides Russes* of the 17th inst. gives some details relative to the 3,700,000 roubles extracted from the Treasury of Warsaw on the 9th of June. The cash in the Treasury was reckoned every week, and the money was safe six days previous to its being removed. The office in which the money was lodged was locked and sealed every evening in the presence of an inspector, and a guard was stationed at the door day and night. The chief cashier was assisted in the receipt and payment of money by an inspector and three clerks. Each cashbox had two keys—one remained with the inspector and the other with the cashier. Some days previous to June 9 the cashier was absent without leave, and his assistant, having inquired for him, found him ill in bed. A messenger from the War Office having brought an order for 170,000 roubles, a soldier was sent to the sick man for the key, but it was found impossible to open the cashbox, the lock having been damaged. A locksmith was sent for, and when the cashbox was forced open a deficiency was discovered of 3,000,000 roubles in bonds of the Credit Foncier of the Kingdom of Poland, of 300,000 roubles in gold, and of 400,000 roubles in bank notes. The same day the inspector and the clerks disappeared. The manner in which the abstraction was accomplished is not known.

MR. WILLIAM WALTER CARGILL, a Director of the Oriental Bank, London, is the Conservative candidate for Berwick, and not Mr. Ralph Earle, as at first stated.

THE VOLUNTEERS BILL.—A deputation from the metropolitan committee on the volunteer bill waited upon Earl De Grey and Ripon on Saturday. Its object was to induce a modification of some of the clauses which are most strongly condemned. Earl De Grey, while declining altogether to alter the principle of the bill, expressed his willingness to give the representations of the deputation careful consideration.

THE DISPUTE WITH BRAZIL.—A telegram from Brussels states that the King of the Belgians had sent to the English and Brazilian Minister his decision relative to the question at issue between England and Brazil, which was submitted to his Majesty's arbitration. The *Indépendance Belge* states that it is believed that the principal question has been decided in favour of the Brazilian Government. It is said that his Majesty decided that, notwithstanding certain irregularities on the part of the Brazilian authorities, which he points out and censures, the treatment of which the English officers complained did not constitute an insult to the British Navy.

AN "AFFAIR OF HONOUR."—The recent case in the Court of Queen's Bench, in which the Balaklava charge was re-enacted on paper, has given rise to a hostile feeling between a distinguished veteran General of cavalry and a noble Lord who served in the Crimea, and who lately filed an affidavit respecting the action on behalf of Colonel Calthorpe. (The Earl of Lucan and General Brotherton are the officers referred to.) It was mainly in consequence of that misunderstanding the affidavit was filed. The noble Lord, on receiving a challenge from the General, repaired to Paris, and waited there for some time, but returned to London just as the General proceeded to France. It is understood that steps have been taken to prevent any accomplishment of the designs entertained by the Generals to arrange their differences after a style which has now very much gone out of fashion.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING.—The copy of a report from the surveyor of the office of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, explanatory of the estimate of the cost of completing the Exhibition buildings at Kensington Gore and rendering them permanently substantial, has been laid before the House of Commons. Mr. Henry A. Hunt reports that the picture-gallery in Cromwell-road is a substantial structure. The roof, however, requires to be repaired and the skylights replaced with others of a stronger character. It is proposed also to lay new-wrought floor-boards over those now existing and to render the whole of the gallery fireproof. The remainder of the buildings are partly permanent and partly temporary in their construction, and will have to be materially strengthened and re-roofed. The whole of the ground floors will have to be removed, and a layer of concrete twelve inches thick will then be laid over the whole surface, and a new floor constructed. The joists will be of the best fir timber; the sleepers will be of oak, on proper brick walls, built on the concrete platform before described. All the ceilings throughout, except the nave and transept, will be plastered, as will also the brick walls within the building. A complete system of drainage, the report states, was constructed when the buildings were erected; but the works will, however, require to be repaired, and in parts relaid. With regard to the domes, it is proposed to build piers of brickwork upon solid concrete foundation, and to construct brick arches, springing from these piers. The lower portion of the domes will then be filled with brickwork, covered externally with lead, and the upper portion will be glazed with thick glass. The interior parts of the brickwork, including the piers and arches, will be plastered. It is not proposed to remove the ironwork, but to build it in with the brickwork. As respects the completion architecturally of the exterior of the building on its three sides, Mr. Hunt proposes that the existing outlines shall be preserved, and such an amount of decoration introduced as may be consistent with the purposes to which the building is to be applied. The material to be employed will be Portland cement. These are the more important works contemplated; but there are others of a minor description, which are fully set forth in the specification and estimate already presented to the First Commissioner. The warming and ventilating apparatus is an approximate estimate only.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Democratic State Convention of Ohio, after having unanimously nominated Mr. Vallandigham for the governorship, appointed a committee to demand his release from the President. Resolutions were passed declaring that the democracy would hail with delight the expression of a desire on the part of the seceded States to return to their allegiance, and would co-operate with the citizens of those States to restore peace. Mr. Vallandigham is said to have reached a Southern port, intending to sail for Nassau.

The enrolment for the conscription in the Northern States is meeting with considerable opposition. The Provost Marshal, his assistant, and the enrolling officer were fired upon near Manville, Indiana, whilst making an enrolment. The two former were killed, and the latter escaped. The men who perpetrated the crime had been arrested, and a company of cavalry were sent to assist the enrolment.

At the convention of the New York editors the organs of all the different political parties were represented. It was unanimously resolved that every journalist had the right to criticise, censure, or condemn the acts of those officials intrusted with power, with the view to render them efficient and faithful, and to replace them by better men; that no military officer was empowered to suppress the issue or prohibit the circulation of any paper printed at a distance from the seat of war, and that any editor who committed or abetted treason was amenable to the civil law alone.

WAR NEWS.

The report of the evacuation of Fredericksburg by General Lee, and its occupation by General Hooker, was incorrect. The report arose from the fact that two brigades of General Sedgwick's division had been thrown across the Rappahannock, below Fredericksburg, for the purpose of making a reconnaissance of General Lee's position and movements. Sharp firing was kept up from the Confederate rifle-pits during the crossing, and about 40 of the Federals were killed or wounded. Subsequently a dash was made at the rifle-pit, and 90 of the Confederate pickets were captured. Up to Sunday, the 7th, the Federal force remained upon the south bank of the river, and were unmolested in their encampment. Generals Lee and Longstreet were still at Fredericksburg, and occupied the city and heights in force. The Confederate leader was said to have received large reinforcements, and it was believed that he was about to assume the offensive and invade Maryland or Pennsylvania, and perhaps even make a dash at Washington.

There is nothing decisive from Vicksburg. An early attack upon General Grant's rear was considered imminent. Southern advices are very hopeful. They state that General Pemberton had reported he could hold Vicksburg, and that General Johnstone might take his time to organise his forces. They also assert that Kirby Smith, with 10,000 men, had occupied Milliken's Bend, twenty miles above Vicksburg, cutting off General Grant's supplies. Northern accounts state that there was fighting along the river from Lake Providence to within sight of Vicksburg, and that a severe fight occurred at Milliken's Bend upon the 6th inst., the Federal forces, consisting mostly of negro regiments, being driven to the bank of the river under cover of the gun-boats. Three divisions from General Bragg's army were reported to be marching to join General Johnstone. Breckinridge had already joined him. Grant was being reinforced. Grant's total loss since crossing the Mississippi is estimated at 7000 men. Reports from Vicksburg received by the Government lead to the belief that the city is stronger and better defended than was previously suspected at Washington. Advices from General Banks to the 4th inst. had been received at General Grant's head-quarters, announcing that the siege of Port Hudson was progressing favourably; while Southern accounts state that the Federals had been repulsed at Port Hudson, and that General Banks had lost an arm. A report, requiring confirmation, had been received from the South that General Kirby Smith had driven General Banks from Port Hudson, and was still pursuing him on the 5th. It is not probable, however, that both this and the report of Kirby Smith being at Milliken's Bend, twenty miles above Vicksburg, can be true.

Richmond papers of the 6th publish the following speech of General Pemberton to his army, denying the imputations of treason and incompetency recently made against him:—"You have heard that I was incompetent, a traitor, and that it was my intention to sell Vicksburg. Follow me, and you will see the cost at which I will sell Vicksburg. When the last pound of beef, bacon, and flour—the last grain of corn—the last cow, and hog, and horse, and dog shall have been consumed, and the last man shall have perished in the trenches—then, and only then, will I sell Vicksburg."

General Blair, who had been sent out with a Federal force to reconnoitre the country lying between the Big Black and Yazoo Rivers, to discover the whereabouts of General Joseph Johnstone, and check his advance upon General Grant's rear, returned to Vicksburg on the 2nd. He was unsuccessful in the search for General Johnstone, but turned his expedition to account in destroying all the bridges, grist-mills, cotton-gins, and cotton that lay in his route. The agricultural resources of the Yazoo country are described as being most abundant.

CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT AT BEVERLEY'S FORD, VIRGINIA.

In consequence of a belief, said to be confirmed, that General Lee had assembled a large cavalry force between Culpepper Courthouse and Beverley's Ford, to make a raid into Maryland, General Hooker ordered three brigades of cavalry, and 2000 infantry, with two batteries, all under General Pleasanton, to cross the Rappahannock to counteract Lee's movement. The operations are thus described:—

Pleasanton's force crossed early on Tuesday morning; the right, under Bufford, at Beverley's Ford, and the left, under Gregg, at Kelley's Ford, the two being six miles apart. They both moved towards Culpepper, on roads converging at Brandy Station, where a junction was to be made. Bufford crossed without opposition, and the Eighth cavalry advanced to the woods, where they were met by the Confederate cavalry and driven back with heavy loss. The Federal cavalry then charged the Confederates, driving them back to their main body, who were forming in the rear of the woods. General Pleasanton then directed Bufford to charge the Confederates in flank, whilst the infantry and artillery engaged them in front. Bufford was, however, repulsed, his retreat nearly cut off, and he cut his way out with difficulty. The Confederates then attempted to gain the rear of Pleasanton's force, but did not succeed; and Bufford again pressing them, and the Confederates finding Gregg approaching their own rear, they retreated. Bufford and Gregg then formed a junction at a point six miles south of where the Confederate pickets were first encountered. Gregg had been hotly engaged all the morning on the left, and had driven the Confederates from the river to Brandy Station. At four o'clock in the afternoon General Pleasanton, ascertaining that the Confederates were receiving infantry reinforcements, recrossed the river, bringing away his dead and wounded and 200 prisoners. No definite estimate of the Federal loss has been received, but the fighting was severe and hand to hand. One corps of General Hooker's army still remains on the south side of the Rappahannock, below Fredericksburg.

HOW THE NEGROES FIGHT.

The *New Orleans Express*, in its account of the attack on Port Hudson, says:—

While an occasional shot was being fired, before the battle commenced in its more deadly fury, speculations were rife as to the manner in which the 2nd Louisiana black troops would act during the conflict. They had been placed in the rear, with white troops leading them. General Banks, however, in order to test their military capacity, ordered them to the front. The negroes at once rushed to the assigned point, and in the midst of the battle they proceeded to storm the rebel position opposite them. They rushed in a body over the parapets and siege-guns, and reached the interior of the fort, in despite of the opposition of a large number of rebels. The presence of the black soldiers inside, not less than the probability of the pass they had made into the stronghold, seemed to create a spirit of fury in the enemy. They left their guns at all points and rushed to the quarter where the negroes had prepared to make a vigorous struggle. The whites and blacks, in a moment, had a hand-to-hand conflict unprecedented for its ferocity. The negroes in the conflict were soon disarmed, and in defending themselves they rapidly used the weapons of savage humanity. In every position in which the struggle placed them they fought with their teeth, biting their assailants in every available part of the body, kicking and scratching them. Soon, however, they had to succumb—the bayonet, the trigger, the revolver, and merciless hands on their throats doing the work for them with fearful fatality. It may be here noted, as a key, perhaps, to other battles, that the presence of the black troops made the rebels in the fort almost as ferocious as the blacks. In the attack the enemy did not content himself in wounding the Africans. Of 800, 600 were killed at once;

when one was wounded the assault was repeated till he died. Finding themselves thus overpowered, about 200 of the negro troops rushed to the siege-guns, jumped headlong over the walls, and were saved.

SCOTLAND.

THE BREADALBANE SUCCESSION.—On Saturday, parties were heard before the first division of the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on the petition of the Right Hon. Charles William Campbell, Lieutenant in the 19th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, the claimant to the succession of the Breadalbane estates, in competition with John Alexander Gavin Campbell, of Glenfalloch, praying the Court in the meantime to sequestre the entailled estates of Breadalbane and appoint a judicial factor till the settlement of the question of the succession. Their Lordships, after hearing counsel at considerable length, took time to consider the case.

THE HIGHLANDS.—The Prince and Princess of Wales will, on the approach of grouse-shooting, pay a visit to the Highlands. The Prince and Princess will not go to Balmoral, but will occupy Aberfeldie Castle, the residence of the late Duchess of Kent when in Scotland. Aberfeldie remains quite in its original state; being held only on lease, it would, of course, have been very injudicious to have laid out any money on alterations and improvements. Aberfeldie is some two or three miles farther down the Dee than Balmoral, and immediately on the banks of the river, the back of the residence towards the water. In this primitive region it has been the custom to suspend a rope on two poles on each side of the river, rigged with pulleys, and to convey baskets and parcels across the water to the castle from Craithie and the adjacent villages.

SOMNAMBULISM.—A few evenings since a family in the village of Pitlessie, Fifeshire, were somewhat surprised and alarmed at observing a figure in white perambulating the floor of their house during the night, and long after they had retired to rest. A little time, however, sufficed to clear up the apparent mystery. A young lad who resides at a different part of the village had, while sleeping, risen from his bed, and, drawing down the upper sash of his bedroom window, scrambled over the top of it, and made his way across one or two gardens, climbing the walls (which were of considerable height) apparently without accident or injury. It is also conjectured by some that he must have gone over a gate between six and seven feet high, the top of which was filled with iron spikes; but this is considered by others as somewhat doubtful, seeing he could avoid it on his way to the house which he entered. On arriving at this house he gained an entrance by breaking one of the panes of glass in one of the windows. The inmates promptly had their unlooked-for visitor put to bed and otherwise properly attended to. He bore no marks of having sustained any injuries during the course of his midnight ramble, with the exception of a few scratches on the hands and arms, caused, in all probability, by the breaking of the pane of glass.

THE PROVINCES.

HARVEST PROSPECTS IN CUMBERLAND.—There is every prospect of an early and plenteous harvest in our county this year. The crops, generally, are most promising—not least so those of barley, several of which are now "in ear." We received by post, last night, a splendid specimen from a field belonging to Mr. George Tinnion, of Hall Platt, Irton, which, we are told, represents the entire crop. Our agricultural friends are, as they should be, in high glee; and there is every reason to believe that their cause of rejoicing will be, this year, of more than momentary duration.—*Cumberland Paquet.*

RARA AVIS.—There is at present to be seen in Cambridge a rare ornithological curiosity in the shape of a specimen (female) of Pallas Sandgrouse (*Pallas Paradoxus*). This bird, which is in the possession of Mr. Saville, of Regent-street, the appointed private naturalist to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and to whom it has been confided for preservation, reminds one not a little at first sight of the minor partridge. It has a dove's head, a swift or shrew's wings, and a grouse's feet. The markings on the breast, wings, and tail are those of a partridge, beneath those of a grouse. The extremities of the wings and tail are as fine as a needle. It was one of a flock of nine, and was killed on the 2nd inst., at Aldershot. Two fell to the gun, but one was too much mutilated for preservation. There is but one other specimen in England, and that is in Lynn Museum.

DRESSMAKING AND DEATH.—An inquest was held at the St. James's Workhouse last week relative to the death of Mary Anne Walkley, aged twenty years, who, at the time of her decease, was in the employ of Mdme. Elise, Court dressmaker, 170, Regent-street. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who was of a somewhat delicate constitution, and who worked in a room with nearly thirty others, was taken ill on the Friday preceding, and on Sunday night became much worse, when medical assistance was called in. Remedies having been administered, she appeared to fall asleep, and her bedfellow, Miss Santrey (who was examined as a witness), retired to rest with her, but on awaking in the morning was shocked to find her companion dead by her side. A post-mortem examination was made by Mr. Keys, who deposed that death resulted from apoplexy, and stated, in answer to the Coroner, that long hours of work in a crowded apartment, and sleeping in a close, badly-ventilated room, would have a great tendency to produce the symptoms which he described. Mr. Clarke, surgeon, concurred in the evidence of Mr. Keys. He described the bedrooms, which were divided by partitions into small compartments, as just large enough to contain two beds, placed end to end. If, as had been stated, there were two young women in each bed, he considered they were decidedly unfit places for any one to sleep in, and more particularly in the state of health in which the deceased had been. Mr. Bush, who had attended the deceased during the unavoidable absence of his principal, Mr. Keys, expressed his opinion that the rooms in which the deceased died were overcrowded and badly ventilated. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased died of apoplexy; but there is too much reason to fear that her death was greatly accelerated by working long hours in a crowded workroom, and sleeping in a close, badly-ventilated bedroom."

THE ROYAL FORESTS IN ESSEX.—The report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the condition and management of the Royal forests at Essex has been issued. The Committee sketch the various inclosures which have taken place in these forests. With regard to Waltham Forest, they think that the forestal rights of the Crown which have been sold to such an extent, though producing nothing to the revenue, have contributed to keep in a state of wild forest land a considerable space of open ground in the neighbourhood of the metropolis which has been a source of health and recreation to many of its crowded population. They report that a considerable extent of ground in Waltham Forest has been inclosed without any consideration being paid for the forestal rights of the Crown; and recommend that immediate steps be taken by the Crown to assert its right and to abate such inclosures. With regard to the remaining portion of Waltham Forest, they recommend that the rights of the several parties interested be ascertained; and that provision be made, partly by these means and partly by purchase, for securing an adequate portion of the forest for the purposes of health and recreation. With regard to the King's Woods, Hainault, they report that the result to the Crown by the deforestation has been that it now possesses a compact estate, in severity, of nearly 1900 acres, let on lease at a rental of £4000 a year, instead of a doubtful income of about £500 a year from lands in a state of neglect and subject to all kinds of waste and encroachment, and that all the expense of conversion to a profitable condition has been defrayed out of produce growing on the estate itself. The Committee state that no portion of the Crown estates can be allotted for recreation and exercise, inasmuch as grants for lands are restrained by the Act 10 Geo. IV., c. 50, s. 45, to specific purposes set out in the above Act; but the Committee regret that when nearly 1900 acres were allotted to the Crown in 1853 no application was made to Parliament for the power of allotting some portion for recreative purposes.

POMPEII.

A RECENT visitor to Pompeii writes as follows:—"There are now boulevards around Pompeii, and a road is being made for the carts which convey the rubbish in the direction of the amphitheatre. From the top of those boulevards the visitor has a view of the whole city, and can form a tolerably correct idea of the interior of the houses uncovered. Excavations are now going on on two eminences near the Temple of Isis and the house called Abondanza. Our inspection was chiefly confined to the former site, where, in a house situated in a narrow street recently opened, we saw several bodies, or rather forms of bodies, which now attract universal attention. The unfortunate inhabitants of this house fell, not on the bare ground, but on heaps of pumice stones, and were covered to a great depth by torrents of ashes and scoria, under which they have lain for nearly 2000 years. One day, inside house, amid fallen roofs and ashes, the outline of a human body was perceived, and M. Fiorelli, the chief of the works for excavation, soon ascertained that there was a hollow under the surface. He accordingly made a small hole through its covering, and filled it up with liquid plaster of Paris, as if it were a mould. The result was that he obtained a complete plaster statue of a Roman lady of the first century of the Christian era. Close by were found the remains of a man, another woman, and a girl, with ninety-one pieces of silver money; four earrings and a finger-ring, all gold; two iron keys, and evident remains of a linen bag or purse. The whole of those bodies have been carefully moulded in plaster. The first body discovered was that of a woman lying on her right side, with her limbs contracted, as if she had died in convulsions. The form of the headdress and of the hair are quite distinct. On the bone of the little finger were two silver rings, and with this body were the

remains of the purse above mentioned with the money and keys. The girl was found in an adjoining room, and the plaster mould taken of the cavity clearly shows the tissue of her dress. By her side lay an elderly woman, who had an iron ring on her little finger. The last personage I shall describe was a tall, well-made man, lying full length. The plaster distinctly shows his form, the folds of his garment, his torn sandals, his beard and hair. I contemplated these human forms with an interest which defies expression. It is evident that all these unfortunates had made great efforts to escape destruction. The man appears to have perished in a vain attempt to rescue the terrified women, who thought they could be nowhere so safe as in their own home, and hoped that the fiery tempest would soon cease. From the money and keys found with the body of the first woman, she was probably the mistress of the house and the mother of the girl. The slender bones of her arms and legs and the richness of her headdress seem to indicate a woman of noble race. From the manner in which her hands were clenched she evidently died in great pain. The girl does not appear to have suffered much. From the appearance of the plaster mould, it would seem that she fell from terror, as she was running with her skirts pulled over her head. The other woman, from the largeness of her ear, which is well shown by the plaster, and the iron ring on her finger, evidently belonged to a lower class, and was probably a servant of the family. The man appears to have been struck by lightning, for his straightened limbs show no signs of a death struggle. It is impossible to imagine a more affecting scene than the one suggested by these silent figures; nor have I ever heard of a drama so heartrending as the story of this family of the last days of Pompeii."

THE SOURCE OF THE NILE.

AN extra meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday night at Burlington House, to welcome back to England Captains Speke and Grant, and to hear from them a short account of their discovery of the source of the Nile. Long before eight o'clock the large room was crammed in every part with a fashionable audience, all eager to see and hear the heroes of the Nile. As it was, large numbers were disappointed, the hall not being large enough to hold the whole of the crowd of would-be well-wishers of these brave men. After a few complimentary remarks, the president, Sir Roderick Murchison, introduced to the meeting Captain Speke, who would read a paper on the great discovery which he and his companion, Captain Grant, had recently made. On coming forward Captain Speke met with a most flattering reception, the whole meeting rising and cheering loudly. When silence was at last restored, Captain Speke said that before reading his paper he begged to introduce to them a little boy belonging to one of the most intelligent of the equatorial tribes. It was through the friendliness and fidelity of a man of this tribe that he was able to complete his great work, and he thought it only just that the Government should educate some of the most intelligent of this race and send them back to their native country as consuls, to assist in spreading our commerce and civilisation throughout Eastern Africa. The little fellow, a fine boy of about fourteen, is an excellent specimen of the intellectual black type, his nose being as straight and his forehead as high as those of a European, although his woolly head and dark skin were thoroughly characteristic of his African blood. He seemed in no way disconcerted at his reception, and was as cool and collected as if he had attended the meetings of the society all his life. Captain Grant had a similar companion with him.

Captain Speke commenced his paper, "The Nile and its Tributaries Compared," by describing the Lake Nyanya, the principal head of the Nile. This lake is situated in lat. 3 deg. S., and from that point to its debouchure, in the Mediterranean, in lat. 31 deg. N., the Nile traverses a distance of over 3000 geographical miles, or nearly one-tenth of the circumference of the earth. When he discovered the Nyanya Lake in 1858, he found it to be a large sheet of sweet water, lying about 3500 feet above the level of the sea, and he at once felt certain that it could only be the source of some vast river such as the Nile. The natives had traditions, too, of its great extent, and certain Arab merchants of Zanzibar, who penetrated those regions in search of ivory, assured him that Nyanya was the source of some great river. Other traditions heard from the natives confirmed him in this opinion, and he believes he would have settled the question of the source of the Nile in 1859, by travelling to Uganda with an Indian merchant, had not the chief of the expedition fallen ill. On his return to England, he found Sir Roderick Murchison deeply imbued with the necessity of at once completing the work he had left undone. He himself could not rest satisfied until the world had accepted his views, now happily confirmed by actual inspection and observation. On returning with his brave companion, Captain Grant, to Unyanyembe, five degrees south of the lake, in 1861, he hit upon a new route, which he supposed, from the accounts of the ivory merchants, would lead to a creek in the western flank of the lake; but, owing to the confusion existing in the language of the country with regard to the terms river and lake, it turned out to be a new lake, the Luero-lo-Urigi, which once contained large quantities of water, but is now fast drying up. It is to the west and north of Karagwe that the great lake receives its largest supply of terrestrial water, through the medium of the Kitangule River, which drains off the Luero-lo-Urigi and many minor lakes. These lakes are all mere paddles, compared to the Nyanya; but the Kitangule is a noble river, sunk low in the earth, like a huge canal, and measuring eighty yards across. The question now arises, what forms these lakes without number? The Mountains of the Moon, whence they derive their water, are in the middle of the rainy zone, where he observed, in 1862, that no less than 233 days out of the year were more or less wet days. The first place from which he obtained a view of Lake Nyanya during the second expedition was from the town of Mashonde, in the Udu portion of the country of Uganda, on the western side of the lake. Pursuing his way northward, along the shore to the valley of Katonga, which is situated on the Equator, the land above the lake becomes very beautiful, being composed of low sandstone hills, deeply scored and seamed by the heavy rains, covered with gigantic grass of unsurpassed verdure, and by dells of trees as tall and straight as the blue gums of Australia. Travelling, however, is most irksome in this part of the country, for, owing to the gradual subsidence of all the streams, the moorlands surrounding them are mere networks of rushes covering unfathomable soft bogs. Crossing the Equator he reached the Mwongo, a stream of moderate size, and said to flow out of the lake. It runs north, and joins the Nile in the kingdom of Unyoro, when its name is changed to Kafu. Further on, the Luajjeri follows its example; and still further on, at the centre of the northern coast of the lake, issues the parent stream of the Nile, falling over rocks of an igneous character, and forming falls 12 ft. high, which he had christened by the name of the "Ripon Falls," in honour of the president of the Geographical Society at the time of the starting of the expedition. The escape of the Nyanya's waters, twenty miles north of the Equator, was the only outlet examined, owing to the barbarous restrictions placed on travellers by the King of the country. They, however, saw the junction of the Nile with the Kafu and Asua rivers, and crossed the Luajjeri half-way between its escape from the lake and its junction with the parent stream. Proceeding down the Nile from the Ripon Falls they first passed through a row of sandstone hills, after which the river rushes down due north with the beauty of a mountain torrent, running off at last into long flats, more like a lake than a river. In Unyoro it is increased by the contributions of the Kafu and Luajjeri, and continues navigable as far as the Karuma Falls, where it rushes on with boisterous liveliness. They could not continue their passage beyond this point owing to a war that was raging in the country. They next met the old river in the Madi country, where it still bears the unmistakable character of the Nile—long flats and long rapids. Here it is that another great feeder from the Nyanya Lake, the Asua River, joins it on the eastern side. On the other side a long flat extends far into the country—as far, Captain Speke believes, as the little Luta Nzi Lake. With the rest of the Nile we ought to be well acquainted; but little is really known about it, owing to the fact of no one having yet taken the trouble to place nilometers at

proper spots. Proceeding onwards, the next great affluent is the Bahr-el-Ghazal, which joins the Nile with hardly any visible stream, having more the appearance of a lake than of a river. The second is the Gerfatu River, which may be said to be only one-third of the Nile in size at its point of junction. Its source has yet to be discovered. Its character suggests the possibility of its coming from Lake Nyanza. The third affluent is the Boothan Sobat River, also full and navigable. The Northern Sobat they passed without knowing it. Captain Speke then went on to describe some other tributaries of the Nile, concluding by giving an account of his meeting with Mr. Baker at Kharloun, who had nobly come up the Nile to meet him with no less than three ladies. Mr. Baker and his party

intended following out the stream supposed to lead to the little Lata Ntigi Lake to its source.

THE FEDERAL ATTACK ON VICKSBURG.

Every one who has studied American politics understands that the object of the Federals in successfully attacking Island No. 10, Vicksburg, and Port Hudson, is to free the navigation of the Mississippi, and so secure for the North-Western States free egress for their agricultural products; and it is equally well understood by those conversant with the matter, both in Europe and in America, that upon the success or failure of the efforts to

accomplish this object depends the continued adherence of those States to the Union. The importance, therefore, of the operations on this mightiest of streams cannot be overrated, and hence the efforts made by both the Confederate and Federal Governments—the one to retain, and the other to secure, the command of the Mississippi. The lower portion of the river, lying within the territory of the seceding States, early became an object of attention to both Governments. The Confederates fortified a variety of points along the course of the stream, which the Federals attacked one after another. At first it was believed that a flotilla of gun-boats was all that was needed to clear the navigation; and this idea was favoured by the capture, about a year ago, of Island No. 10;

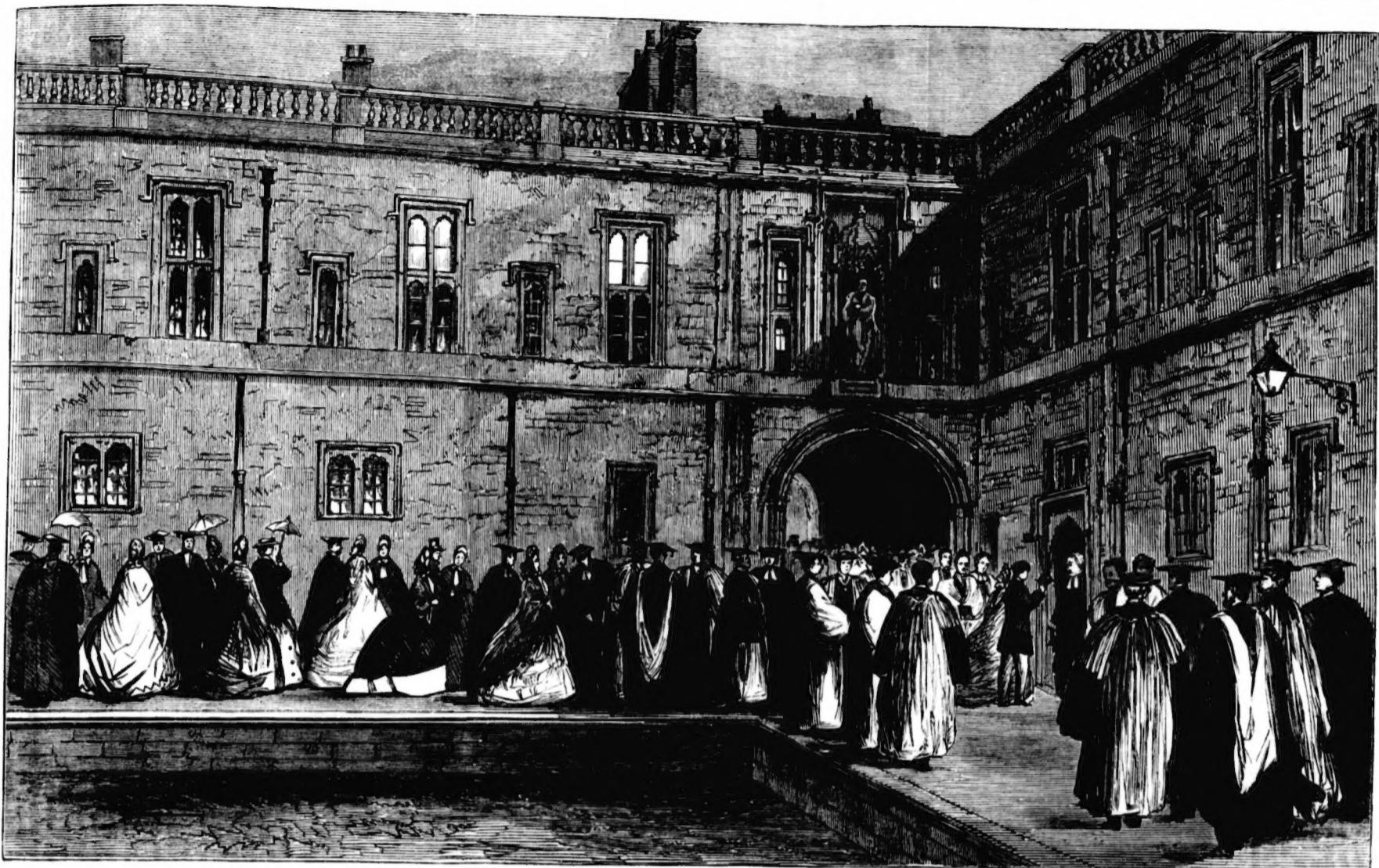
but the positions taken up by the Confederates at Vickaburg and Port Hudson have proved that although war-vessels might pass the batteries it was hopeless for mercantile ships to attempt to do so in safety. Hence it became important, not merely to sail past these positions with ships of war, but to obtain possession of the fortifications themselves, and that has been the object of the operations of Generals Grant and Banks in attacking Vickaburg and Port Hudson in conjunction with the naval forces of Admirals Farragut and Porter—one portion of the Federal forces, those under Banks and Farragut respectively, attacking from below, while General Grant and Admiral Porter advanced from above. That the Federals have hitherto been unsuccessful in their efforts appears to be the result more of the natural strength of the



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—THE FEDERAL & CONFEDERATE ARMY.

1 year by General Johnson. In this position the last advices leave the prospective combatants; but the following report of operations from Admiral Porter, acting in conjunction with General Grant, furnished by Captain Pennock, commanding under the Admiral, will be interesting:—
"On the morning of the 13th of May I came over to the Yazoo to be ready to co-operate with General Grant. Leaving two of the ironclads at Grand Gulf, one at Carthage, three at Wittenberg, and one at the Red River, one at the Yazoo, left me a small force. Still I disposed of them to the advantage. On the 18th, at meridian, firing was heard in the rear oficksburg, which assured me that General Grant was approaching the city, and the cannonading was kept up furiously for some time, when, by the aid of our ironclads, I drove the rebels before them. I immediately advanced, taking position and driving the rebels before them. I immediately saw that General Sherman's division had come on to the left of Foyston's Bluff, and that the rebels at that place had been cut off from joining the forces in the city. I dispatched the De Kalb, Lieutenant-Commander Walker; Choctaw, Lieutenant-Commander Ramsey; Petrel, and Forest Rose, all under command of Lieutenant-Commander Breeze, up the Yazoo, to open communication in that way with Generals Grant and Sherman. This I succeeded in doing, and in three hours received letters from Generals Grant, Sherman, and Steele, informing me of this vast success and asking me to send up provisions, which was at once done. In the meantime Lieutenant-Commander Walker, in the De Kalb, pushed on to Haine's Bluff, which the enemy had commenced evacuating the day before, and a party remained behind in the hopes of destroying or taking away a large amount of ammunition on hand. When they saw the gun-boats they ran out and left everything in good order—guns, stores, tents, and equipage of all kinds, which fell into our hands. As soon as the capture of Haine's Bluff and

positions occupied and the determination to resist shown by their opponents, than from any want of skill or determination on the part of the military and naval officers intrusted with the direction of the operations. Admirals Farragut and Porter at various times succeeded in carrying warships and transports past the Confederate batteries, but with considerable loss of vessels and men; General Grant, acting upon a well-arranged plan of operations, after a series of gallantly fought actions, has been enabled to advance to the rear of Vickekburg; and General Banks has also gained a position on the land side of Port Hudson. But here their success terminates, at least for the present, both being foiled in carrying the positions against which their efforts were directed by assault, and having to bethink the means to the slower process of regular siege operations, in the prosecution of which our last efforts leave them.



VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES TO OXFORD.—THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE DEANERY.

reported to me, I shoved up the gun-boats from below Vicksburg to fire at the hill batteries, which fire was kept up for two or three hours. At midnight they moved up to the town and opened on it for about an hour, and continued at intervals during the night to annoy the garrison. On the 19th I placed six mortars in position, with orders to fire night and day as rapidly as they could. The works at Haine's Bluff are very formidable. There are fourteen of the heaviest kind of mounted eight and ten

inch and seven and a half inch rifled guns, with ammunition enough to last a long siege. As the gun-carriages might again fall into the hands of the enemy, I had them burned, blew up the magazine, and destroyed the works generally. I also burned up the encampments, which were permanently and remarkably well constructed, looking as if the rebels intended to stay some time. These works and encampments covered many acres of ground, and the fortifications and the rifle-pits proper of Haine's Bluff extend

about a mile and a quarter. Such a network of defences I never saw. The rebels were a year constructing them, and all were rendered useless in an hour. As soon as I got through with the destruction of the magazines and other works, I started Lieutenant Commander Walker up the Yazoo River with sufficient force to destroy all the enemy's property in that direction, with orders to return with all dispatch, and only to proceed as far as Yazoo City, where the rebels have a navy yard and storehouses."



PRESENTATION BY THE PRINCESS OF WALES OF THE PRIZES TO THE UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS IN CHRIST CHURCH QUADRANGLE.—SEE PAGE 439.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 217.

BERKELEY'S ANNUAL FARCE.

THE annual debate on the ballot has got to be a farce, with Mr. Berkeley and Lord Palmerston as the chief performers. When the appointed time arrives Mr. Berkeley enters the house; by arrangement made with the leader of her Majesty's Opposition he takes his place on the front Opposition bench, near Mr. Disraeli, and, having got his papers in due order, he lays them upon the table, and when his name is called he rises and proceeds to deliver his well-conceived speech, which he has before him written out in extenso, in fine Roman hand. This speech is the one labour of a year. It is beautifully written, diligently learned, and admirably delivered. The members, who generally attend in considerable numbers, when Mr. Berkeley rises settle themselves down to listen attentively; not, however, because they feel any deep interest in the question (for it is well known that four fifths of them care nothing about it) but because they know that they shall have some fun—a thing very acceptable at all times in the house. He that can and will contribute to the amusement of the House is always popular. Mr. Whalley, if he rises at the proper time, is looked upon as a relief. A good deal of Whiteside's popularity is owing to his power to make the members laugh. Bernal Osborne, our primo-buffo, always draws an audience, and is always welcomed with cheers, because he is so droll. And even Lord Palmerston attracts as much by his wit and humour as he does by his higher qualifications. Mr. Berkeley's speech this year was very much like its predecessors. It was carefully got up, sparkled with funny stories uncommonly well told, and the honourable member helped us to pass an hour before dinner very agreeably. A feeling, however, has come over the real friends of the ballot that this way of treating the subject has not advanced their cause. "This question some years ago, when Grote and Ward took the lead," they say, "was debated not only with ability but with earnestness, and it was then looked upon as a reality—one of those great questions which in the end must be carried, like Parliamentary Reform, the Repeal of the Corn Laws, &c.; but, somehow, the ballot has become an object of contempt, and the annual debate is a mere farcical performance." And no doubt this is true. The ballot question is sunk into contempt; the annual debate is a mere farce; and perhaps something of this is owing to Mr. Berkeley's mode of treating the subject. He does not appear to be in earnest; he gives you the idea that he would rather move you to laughter than convince your judgment. And an insincere, or apparently insincere, teacher is sure to produce indifference in his audience. It is only by faith that we can remove mountains—without it you cannot move molehill. But we have come to think that it is not all Berkeley's fault. Is anybody sincere upon this subject? The fact is, we apprehend that to this question, as to all other questions of Parliamentary reform, the House and the country have become profoundly indifferent—utterly torpid—or, indeed, we might say, dead. And so they will continue until a prophet shall arise with far more earnestness and power than Mr. Berkeley possesses. Still we must not blame Mr. Berkeley. His only fault is that he cannot lift himself above the dead level of his followers.

It was nearly dinner-time when Mr. Berkeley sat down. Now, it is a serious thing at all times to stand between a couple of hundred hungry members and their dinners; and when the dinner-hour approaches the members always get restless, impatient, fretful, and intolerant, and he that commands the attention of a full house between seven and nine o'clock may be considered to have achieved a great triumph. But at this period of the year, in the thick of the London season, when almost every man has a party at home or is engaged to dine out, an angel from heaven could hardly be expected to gain such a triumph. When, then, Mr. Berkeley sat down, the House got very restless. It was obliged, however, and was even disposed, to tolerate Lord Palmerston; for, in the first place, it is hardly decent to hoot a Premier, and, besides, Lord Palmerston, it was known, would be judiciously short. But when, after his Lordship had sat down, and it was confidently expected Mr. Speaker would rise to put the question, the Lord Mayor leaped to his feet, the House got furious, and his civic Lordship was met with a storm of groans which certainly must have astonished him not little. Truth to say, however, he was not dismayed, but manfully kept his position; and, strange as it may seem, it was nevertheless true, he got a hearing. The fact was that he, too, promised amusement. At first not a word that he uttered was heard. Soon, however, between the blasts of the storm some curious cockney sentences reached the ears of the members near him. Roars of laughter burst out. The members, generally, wondering what the laughter was about, began to listen, and thus the Lord Mayor conquered a hearing where probably even Gladstone would have failed; and this speech of the Lord Mayor was certainly worth listening to, even at the risk of a spoiled dinner, his Lordship was so unconsciously comic, his speech was so irresistibly droll. It was not, however, alone because his Lordship dropped and misplaced the asperate that the House laughed so immoderately. We have many men in the house to whom the use of the H is an insoluble mystery. It was the authoritative air with which his civic Lordship delivered his platitudes—the oracular tone in which he warned the House against the evils likely to arise from the adoption of the ballot—that made us so merry. Of course there was laughter when his Lordship talked about the "Hiron cels of despotism"; but the House was convulsed when it was warned that the ballot-box, if adopted, would reduce the House to a dead level of mediocrity. And no wonder, for surely there could be nothing more comic than a Lord Mayor warning the House against the danger of mediocrity.

A STORM.

The Lord Mayor got a hearing, but Mr. Cox the House would not hear. "The impertinence of the little man, to suppose that we will lose our diners to listen to him! We must put him down at once." And straight there burst forth a perfect tornado of groans and howls that no one can describe. The house was literally filled with noise. Unless you hallooed in your neighbour's ear you could not make him understand any question which you might wish to ask him. Mr. Cox gesticulated imploringly to get a hearing, but in vain. The more earnest and humble were his signs the fiercer was the storm. He might as well have tried to quell a howling gale of wind with a look as to persuade those fierce and hungry members to be quiet. And so, after a few minutes, he wisely sat down. Mr. Berkeley replied, and then came the division, and then a rush as of a torrent to dinner; and it was time, for the hand was at nine; and, albeit many special messages had been sent to housekeepers and cooks to hold back, much good cookery must have been marred by the delay.

A JOLLY COUNT-OUT.

But after a storm comes a calm, and after labour comes rest; and though labour is pleasant, rest after labour (says the proverb) is more pleasant still. By 9.30 the House had almost fainted away, and before ten it was, to our great joy, counted out and gone. It has been proposed to abolish counts-out. May the beneficent powers who watch over hard-worked Parliamentary officials and still harder-worked Parliamentary reporters forgive! Just fancy, reader, what a count-out is and does, and you will join in our prayer. Look up at the Reporters' Gallery. Some of the gentlemen there were plying their pens at three o'clock in the morning. At twelve o'clock at noon they were again in position, and, unless a count can be worked, they will probably be there till two or three o'clock the following morning. But a word or two on this count-out. We were in the gallery, looking down upon the dreamy scene below. One count had been tried, and failed; and, believing that the Government wished to keep the House, and had a reserve in hand to do so, we feared that all our hopes were vain, and that we were again doomed to keep watch and ward till daylight appeared. Suddenly, however, just as Sir Frank Crossley got upon his legs to enlighten the House, Mr. Speaker rose. Some one had once more quietly notified to that solemn functionary that there were not forty members present. We count, and can only make twenty-five; but then two minutes must elapse before Mr. Speaker can count, and if the whips have a reserve behind the ringing bells will soon summon them to the rescue. There comes Cox, confound him! That man, we verily believe, never leaves the House. Our belief is that he does not go to bed, but roosts here in some coign of vantage on the building, like an owl. Then, too, comes George Bentinck. He, on

principle, objects to counts. Well, if he has no better principles, he is in a bad case. And here is the inevitable and Lord Robert. He also is adverse to counts "on principle," and never fails to rush from his dinner or his reading, or whatever his employment may be, when he hears the tinkling of the bell. Daigligh! Such a jolly fellow as you are ought to know better than to spoil our sport in this way. Sure, there is no Government reserve yet; neither Brand nor his colleagues have made their appearance. Come, Mr. Speaker! Surely, the sand has run out; why do you not rise? See, he is up! But how he dawdles! He is a slow coach in these matters. Look how deliberately he goes to work. The late Speaker would have counted a hundred whilst this gentleman is counting ten. Thirty-thirty-one-thirty-two-thirty-three (how our hearts beat whilst this is going on)—thirty-four-thirty-five-thirty-six—h'm! we shall lose it. No. He stops. Hurrah! The House is adjourned, and we may go home—go home, reader, at ten, instead of the unchristian hour of three. Do you wonder that we rejoice in these counts, and pray for their preservation from the encroaching hand of Reform? May he that shall dare to lay sacrilegious hands upon this glorious, time-honoured institution be banished from Parliament for ever!

MR. STANFELD'S DEBUT.

Mr. Stansfeld has made his début as an official speaker. On Friday, when Mr. Liddell brought the case of Greenwich Hospital before the House, Mr. Stansfeld rose to reply. It is not usual to intrust such a business as this to any one but the First Lord, if he be in the House, or to the Secretary of the Admiralty in the absence of the First Lord. It was probably Mr. Stansfeld's reputation as a speaker and as an intelligent, practical man of business which induced the authorities to put him forward on this occasion. But, however this may be, the result justified the choice; for it is acknowledged by all who heard him that Mr. Stansfeld did his work well. Sir John Pakington complimented him; Sir John Hay followed in the same strain; whilst in the lobbies it was universally allowed that his first appearance in this new character was a success. But all this was no surprise to us. We, and our readers too, well knew that Mr. Stansfeld possesses all the requisite qualities to insure success. He can think clearly, work industriously, speak eloquently, and is, further, a practised man of business. How could it be supposed for a moment that he would not succeed?

A VEXATIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT.

That was a curious sell on Monday night; a very laughable one, indeed, if we think of it. At least half a dozen speeches, hot for delivery, got cold, and were spoiled by that awkward turn of affairs. Hennessy had a speech as long as his arm in his pocket, or his head; Horsman, no question, had been hammering away for a week at his harangue; it is currently reported that Bernal Osborne had a whole sheaf of witticisms, well pointed and tipped, for delivery; and it is quite certain that Baillie Cochrane, with other minor men, were full to the bung and fizzing over with effervescent thoughts. And there they stood, all and singular, each with his place taken, and every one on his slip to begin when his turn should come; when, lo! there came, most unexpectedly, and from most unexpected quarter, that opposition to proceeding with the debate which disappointed them all. And now a word or two of explanation to our readers. Monday is a night when "orders of the day take precedence of notices of motion." In order, therefore, that Mr. Hennessy might bring on his motion it was necessary that the "orders of the day should be postponed," and at half-past four Lord Palmerston rose, according to promise, to move the postponement. A mere formal motion this, we thought, and sure to be carried. But, lo! when Lord Palmerston had sat down, and just as Mr. Speaker was about to put the question, Mr. Somerset Beaumont arose to oppose it. The House was astonished at the appearance of Mr. Beaumont as much as they would have been if an apparition had risen through the floor, and at first this young gentleman was received with something like expressions of displeasure. It was soon found, however, that Mr. Beaumont had hit the nail on the head; for rattling cheers soon quelled the expression of discontent, and made it clear that the thought which had been quietly working in his mind, and at last had struggled out thus into articulate words, had been working in the minds of a majority of the House. Still, it was not for a moment supposed that Mr. Beaumont would succeed on a division. Lord Palmerston having arranged for Hennessy to come on could not desert him now; and if Lord Palmerston and the Government support Mr. Hennessy, it is clear that Mr. Beaumont will be beaten. So thought the knowing ones; but the knowing ones were wrong for once, for on the division Mr. Beaumont stopped the debate by a majority of 165 to 110; and all the nascent speeches—not born but ready for the birth—had to be thrust back, and kept in durance for the powers above only know when. This was a remarkable incident—almost unprecedented, it is said; but it is quite explicable. We are tired of these debates on foreign affairs—that's the fact. We do not like to play the part of Mrs. Jellaby any longer—that Mrs. Jellaby who neglected her own children to get up missions.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DISPUTE WITH BRAZIL.

The Earl of MELMESBURY brought under the notice of the House the state of our relations with Brazil, and said that, after what had occurred, he felt confident he was merely discharging his duty as a member of their Lordship's House in asking the Foreign Secretary to prove, if he could, that the claims which he had made upon the Government of Brazil were well founded, and that in enforcing them he had adopted the right method of reprisals.

Earl RUSSELL entered into a long explanation of the circumstances that led finally to the withdrawal of the Brazilian Minister from this country, and defended the course he had taken in demanding reparation for the wrongs and insults that had been inflicted on British subjects, and asserted that what he had dared to do against Brazil he would not shrink, under like circumstances, from doing in the case of a stronger Power. The noble Earl, in conclusion, expressed an earnest hope that amicable relations would soon be restored with Brazil.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Mr. LIDDELL called attention to the report of the Royal Commission upon Greenwich Hospital, presented to Parliament in May, 1860, and to the bill which had been introduced in the House of Lords in 1861, but was not proceeded with. He recited the main provisions of that bill and the recommendations of the commissioners. He objected, among other things, to the large number of Queen's officers maintained out of the funds of the hospital, and put in a claim for admission on behalf of the merchant seamen. He complained of the growing expenditure for the internal management of the hospital, and of offices which, though not absolutely condemned by the commissioners, had received only a sort of negative praise, upon becoming vacant, being filled up.

Mr. STANFELD agreed that the report of the commission of 1860 was a most valuable document—bold and suggestive—and many of its recommendations had guided the Board of Admiralty; but he could not undertake to say that the Board were prepared to accept in all their details every one of the suggestions in that able report. There were, he observed, two preliminary questions, the Board's view of which affected their practical conclusions as to the recommendations—first, the original intention of this great national institution, and how far it had been departed from; secondly, the military establishment of the hospital, and how far, in later years, the funds of the hospital had been diverted from the objects for which they had been originally intended. Upon the first head he traced the history of the hospital from the charter of 1694 and subsequent Acts of Parliament and charters to the present time (remarking that the hospital was not opened till 1705), showing what were the objects of this great national charity upon the second head he gave a sketch of the gradual growth of the military establishment, the governing body, and the claims of the officers composing it. He then proceeded to describe the improvements which had been already carried into effect by the Board, in the spirit of the old charters, and the number of officers reduced. He avowed his opinion that the expenditure might be and ought to be reduced; but the increase of expenditure, he observed, had not been in the military, but in the civil, establishment.

Some further discussion took place, after which the subject dropped, and the remainder of the evening was occupied with a variety of topics, but none of such interest as to call for a lengthened report.

MONDAY, JUNE 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord STRATHEDEN brought in a bill to amend the oaths administered to members of the Legislature, but intimated his intention not to proceed further with the measure this Session.

Lord EBURY called attention to the distinction made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the distribution of the common fund between benefices in public and private patronage, and made a motion on the subject, which, after a short discussion, was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CRAWLEY.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON, in reply to Mr. Coningham, said that Lieutenant-Colonel Crawley was to be recalled to this country to be tried by court-martial. This announcement was received with loud cheers.

THE KNOT IN POLAND.

Mr. LAYARD said that telegraphic despatches had been received from the Russian Government denying that General Mouravieff had ordered the knot to be applied to ladies who wore mourning; but added that the information in the possession of her Majesty's Government tended to confirm the reports of the numerous cruelties that were now practised.

THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING POLAND.

Lord PALMERSTON, in accordance with an arrangement previously made, moved the adjournment of the orders of the day, with a view of allowing Mr. Hennessy to bring forward his motion in respect to Poland.

Mr. Beaumont, Mr. Kinglake, and Viscount Enfield, however, appealed to Mr. Hennessy not to bring forward the motion, as Earl Russell had promised to lay more papers before Parliament shortly, in the absence of which discussion would be futile.

Mr. Hennessy made no response, whereupon the House was divided, and by a majority of 165 to 110, decided that the orders should not be suspended. The effect of this was to prevent the motion as to Poland being brought forward.

Mr. Horsman, Lord R. Cecil, and others complained bitterly of the course which had been taken, and contended that another opportunity should be given to Mr. Hennessy to bring his motion forward.

Lord PALMERSTON, after expressing his surprise that the motion had not been allowed to come on, proceeded to state the purport of the note recently dispatched to Russia. Its terms were, he said, nearly identical with notes sent by the Governments of Austria and France. The first suggestion in the note was that a full and complete amnesty should be granted. The next was that there should be a national representation on the principle of that established by Alexander I. in 1815. Next, that Poles alone should be appointed to public offices, and that a Polish Administration should be appointed. The fourth point was that full liberty of conscience should be granted; fifth, that the Polish language should be used in all public transactions and in the education of the people; and sixth, that a regular system of recruiting should be established. In addition to this a cessation of hostilities was recommended. These terms underwent some criticism from Mr. Disraeli, and a conversation of some length ensued, ending in Mr. Hennessy undertaking to postpone his motion until the papers were laid on the table.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

WEST HARTLEPOOL HARBOUR AND RAILWAY BILL.

Lord DONOUGHMORE brought forward the case of the West Hartlepool Harbour and Dock Company. He moved two resolutions—one, that the report and evidence on the subject be referred to the Attorney-General in order that he might inquire whether an indictment should not be preferred against the directors and auditors of the company; and the other, that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire what legislative measures were requisite to prevent directors of public companies from exceeding their borrowing powers.

The LORD CHANCELLOR announced that the course suggested by the first resolution was about to be taken by the Government.

The resolution was therefore withdrawn. The second resolution, with some additions, was passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT IN IRELAND.

Mr. MAGUIRE moved for a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of the agricultural classes in Ireland, and into the state of the law relating to landlord and tenant in that country. In an exceedingly able speech he pointed out the necessity which existed for such an inquiry as that which he suggested.

Mr. BAGWELL seconded the motion, and spoke strongly in support of it. Several Irish members took part in the discussion.

Sir R. PEEL opposed the motion, on the ground that Ireland was now making steady progress, and that the laws with regard to landlord and tenant were not in an unsatisfactory condition.

After a lengthened debate, the motion was negatived by 128 to 49.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. BOUVIER withdrew his Uniformity Act Amendment Bill, Sir W. Heathcote, Mr. Walpole, and other members expressing their approval of this course.

The Misappropriation by Servants Bill was read a second time.

The adjourned debate on Mr. Daigligh's motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the constitution of the Board of Admiralty was resumed. Several hon. members urged that the motion should be withdrawn, and finally Mr. Daigligh yielded to these suggestions and withdrew it.

Mr. COX moved the second reading of the Sales of Settled Estates Act Amendment Bill. The object of this bill was to enable Sir Thomas Wilson to get rid of some of his obligations in regard to portions of Hampstead Heath. A clause in the bill, however, bound him not to infringe upon the rights of the public over that heath. The bill was opposed by Lord Enfield, and on a division was negatived by 78 votes to 24.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Ebury presented a petition from the Metropolitan Board of Works praying their Lordships not to give their assent to the 21st clause of the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Act Amendment Bill, by which a power would be given to certain persons to inclose and build on Hampstead Heath.

LEASES AND SALES OF SETTLED ESTATES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, the House went into Committee on this bill.

The Volunteers Bill passed through Committee.

The Thames Embankment (North Side) Bill was read a third time and passed.

Several other bills were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARY ANNE WALKLEY.

Mr. DAWSON asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been drawn to the case of Mary Anne Walkley, deceased, and the wording of the verdict delivered by the Coroner's inquest empanelled to investigate the circumstances of her death, and if it would not be desirable and humane to introduce legislation for the purpose of limiting and defining the hours of labour in millinery and other establishments where females are employed.

Sir G. GREY said his attention had been called to the subject. He could only repeat what he said the other night, that it would be impossible to establish a system of registration applicable to such rooms in private houses.

THE MHOW COURT-MARTIAL.

Mr. CONINGHAM asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether, subsequently to the memorandum of the 18th of December, a second memorandum or letter embodying the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief on the Mhow court-martial had not been issued; also whether the proceedings alleged by Paymaster Smales to have taken place on his court-martial were submitted to the Judge Advocate-General in England for his opinion, and whether that opinion was obtained before the Paymaster was gazetted out of the service.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said that no second memorandum had been issued. The second part of the question was so vague and indefinite that he should not be justified in giving an answer to it.

Mr. BENTINCK asked whether there was any precedent for holding such a court-martial, and, if not, whether it was not an insult to officers in India.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON believed there was no precedent. He did not think that there would be anything insulting to the Indian officers.

Mr. DISRAELI complained of the expense that would be incurred.

Sir DE LACY EVANS recommended that the whole regiment should be called home.

A long discussion took place, the adjournment of the House having been moved for the purpose of making it in order. The motion was of course withdrawn.

THE BRAZILS.

Mr. BRIGHTE inquired whether the Government would lay the case submitted to the King of the Belgians and his award on the table?

Mr. LAYARD said the award was only received yesterday. It would be printed and laid on the table at once.

THE WELLINGTON CAR.

On the order for going into Supply, Mr. C. BENTINCK asked the First Commissioner of Works to explain the circumstances under which the Wellington funeral car, with wickerwork horse, trappings, &c., is exhibited to the public at sixpence a head by the vergers of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr. COWPER said he believed that the vergers were allowed to take sixpence a head from persons going down into the crypt. Whether the Dean and Chapter were right in allowing that he could not say. Persons could not go into the crypt without a verger, and there were no cathedral funds out of which those officials

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1863.

"OUR YOUNG PEOPLE."

A FEW days since an unfortunate occurrence took place. A poor sempstress, employed at the establishment of a Mdme. Elise, fashionable milliner and dressmaker, perished from overwork and debility. Some of our contemporaries, following the popular and well-worn track, traced the cause of her death to the imperious orders of ladies of fashion—orders given at the last moment and to be obeyed in recklessness of any amount of overwork and suffering they might inflict. Others maintained that the fashionable ladies were among the most benevolent and considerate of womankind, and that the decease of the poor day and night worker was to be charged to the avarice and defective arrangements of the proprietors of the workroom.

Doubtless strong observations, as the lawyers call direct imputations, may be made on each side of the question. We might, for obvious reasons, as the phrase goes, have declined to enter into the contest, but for the opportunity afforded by a letter from the proprietor of the establishment. This letter has been forwarded to and published by the editor of a daily journal. We propose to review this epistle as a literary production purely and simply—a position which enables us to criticise with unlimited freedom its arguments and style, while treating its statements as admissions on the part of the writer.

The champion of "Madame Elise" is a Mr. F. B. W. Isaacson. It is suggested that he is the husband of "Madame," and we were certainly not unprepared for the recognition of the Hebrew element in this matter. The husband of Mdme. Mantalini was, as we have read, Mr. Mundle. "Madame Elise" seemed not unlike a West-end Gallicism of "Mrs. Eli," and Mr. Isaacson's avowed cognomen tends to confirm the probability of the connection of the Semitic mystery with this affair. Mr. Isaacson tells his own story respecting his poor girls, whom he calls "our young people." From this it would appear that it was a most wicked and monstrous act on the part of Mary Anne Walkley to die at all under the circumstances. She "was very comfortable, and met with very kind treatment, her giving us also general satisfaction." Mr. Isaacson is loose in his grammar, however tight he may be in other matters. "Each young lady," says he, "had 300 or 400 cubic feet to breathe in." This, as every arithmetician can see at a glance, indicates a room measuring about 7 ft. in breadth, depth, and height. In the unrenovated atmosphere of such a room, a dog might live for some hours. The amount of air necessary to the existence of an ordinary human being for twenty-four hours is 800 cubic feet. "This," says Dr. Carpenter, in his textbook on "Human Physiology," is "the minimum that can be safely assigned, except where extraordinary provisions are in operation for its constant renewal by ventilation." Isaacson tells us that the girls' sleeping apartments were well ventilated; but it has been shown that in each of the sleeping-dens two beds, each containing two females, were placed end to end. Dr. Carpenter quotes Dr. Snow to the effect that "5 or 6 per cent of carbonic acid" (the inevitable product of respiration) "cannot exist in an atmosphere respired by Man without danger to life." According to Isaacson, Miss Walkley really ought to have lived. But she died nevertheless.

She can scarcely have had to complain of want of physic. If we are to believe Isaacson, and we do so, a plentiful supply of purgatives is kept on draught at his elegant establishment. When the girl fell ill the housekeeper at once administered "Camomile and Sienna." After that, as the patient "felt sick," being rather worse than better, the same experienced medical practitioner gave her "some aperient medicine, and, during the day, some beef tea." Then she was taken worse again, and a message was sent to a surgeon, who, being ill himself, sent an assistant, who "sent a draft." The "draft" did no good, and the assistant being called in, took the remainder of the "draft" back to the shop, whence he sent it back again "altered," "but she became composed, fell asleep, and never spoke after—they all thinking it was the effect of the Hysterics, were very careful in not waking of her." She was dead. In the deepest tragedy there often occurs an indication of the broadest comedy, and this passage of the Jew man-milliner's letter reads like a bit from Smollett or Fielding.

Nobly does Isaacson vindicate his "instructions," which, says he, "always are to do whatever is necessary in cases of illness, regardless of Express." The outlay in "Camomile and Sienna," milliners' beef-tea, "aperient," and the final "draft," which drafted off the patient, could not have been very much less than tenpence.

But the liberality of Isaacson is not limited to tonics and aperients. He tells the public that they (his workwomen) "are liberally Paid, and, if required, can have money advanced." (These italics are ours.) Truly, Mr. Isaacson has a shrewd eye to business. To the relation of employer and assistant he is not above adding that of creditor and debtor. So, he adds triumphantly, "you see the house cannot be as described, or why do the Young Ladies stay?" (These italics are his.)

Thank you, Mr. Isaacson. That will do. You may stand down, Sir. And if your customers should be so absurdly and falsely philanthropic as to decline further dealings with your establishment, we can give you a hint how to turn it to great public advantage. Exhibit it, with all its sleeping arrangements, its pairs of double beds end to end, in "300 or 400 cubic feet of air," its casks of aperients, its workroom, its "Madame," and its doctors' assistant, at any reasonable price of admission, and we can guarantee you a crowd of intelligent visitors.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has granted to Prince Alfred the honour and dignity of a Knight of the Garter, dispensing with the usual formalities.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is reported to have purchased the estate of Bilton Grange, near Rugby, as a hunting-residence. The price said to be paid for it is £70,000.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES held a Drawingroom, on behalf of her Majesty, on Saturday last, which was very numerously attended.

QUEEN MARIA THERESE OF NAPLES has arrived at Vienna, and was received at the railway station by nearly all the Imperial family.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has sent the Order of Charles III. to two French homoeopaths, Messrs. Jahr and Perussel. They studied under Hahnemann.

HER MAJESTY has appointed Lord Hobart, Mr. Huxley, and Mr. Caird, M.P., the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the subject of sea fisheries.

MR. E. H. J. CRAUFURD contradicts a report of an impending vacancy in the Ayr Burghs, which appeared in a local journal.

MR. H. R. NISSEN, stationer, and Mr. Thomas Cave, spectacle-maker, were on Wednesday elected Sheriffs of London.

ADMIRAL THE HON. SIR GEORGE ELLIOT, K.C.B., died on Wednesday morning at his residence in Kensington, after a protracted illness.

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL has passed a special resolution securing to England the advantages stipulated in the commercial treaty concluded between Belgium and Switzerland.

BAILIE DUNCAN, of Rothsay, Isle of Bute, has been fined £10 for pulling the nose of Councillor Cowrie.

THE QUEEN has added to the dignities of the Duke of Somerset by creating him an Earl of the United Kingdom. Lord Seymour, the eldest son of his Grace, will consequently be designated in future, by courtesy, Earl St. Maur.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE LATE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE has been sworn under £350,000. He leaves £3000 to the Salisbury Infirmary, £3000 for the use of the natives of Kerry, and £1000 to a school at Calne.

A SUBSCRIPTION is in progress for the purpose of erecting a bust and tablet in honour of the late Sir George Cornwall Lewis in Westminster Abbey, the consent of the Dean of Westminster having been obtained.

THE LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYOREY purpose entertaining all the leading members of the Conservative party at a grand banquet at the Mansion House on the evening of Wednesday next, the 1st of July.

AN AIR-TIGHT BOX, in which two years ago a live frog was imprisoned by a Sunderland gentleman, was opened a few days ago and the frog was found to be quite lively.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY has determined to repeat the experiment of last year, and to open the exhibition in the evening from half-past seven o'clock until half-past ten o'clock, the admission fee to be sixpence.

THE FEE PAID TO SIR FITZROY KELLY for pleading in the Dundonald case amounts, according to an *en dit* current, to 3000 guineas.

DR. BEKE has addressed a letter to the President of the Royal Geographical Society on the subject of "Who Discovered the Source of the Nile?" in which he urges his claim to be considered as the theoretical discoverer of the sources of the Nile.

THE FIRST TWO VOLUMES of Bishop Colenso's work on the Pentateuch are said to have already given rise to seventy-five controversial works on the subject. The third volume has just been published.

THE SCREW-STEAMER CATALONIAN, from Oporto to Liverpool, founded off Cape Finisterre on the 9th inst., only two sailors being saved out of a crew of twenty-six seamen and two passengers.

JOHN SARGEANT, late secretary to the Stalybridge relief committee, was on Monday committed for trial for robbing the relief fund of £324. The prisoner admitted his guilt.

A MEETING has been held at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, for the purpose of memorialising the Queen to grant her Royal charter of incorporation constituting that town a municipal borough, with a separate commission of the peace and Court of Quarter Sessions.

OXFORD has beaten Cambridge this year in the cricket-match between the two Universities. After some very rapid and vigorous play the match was brought to a close on Tuesday, Oxford winning with eight wickets to fall.

THE SUBSIDY for the conveyance of the ocean Canadian mails is £104,000 a year. The contractors have offered to carry them for £60,000 a year if the contract be extended by the Canadian Government for a number of years.

BY ORDER OF THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF MARINE, all vessels sailing under Pontifical colours shall henceforth, on entering an Italian port, furl up their colours, and not be allowed to hoist them so long as they remain in Italian waters.

THE BOHEMIAN MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRIAN COUNCIL OF EMPIRE forwarded on Tuesday to the Lower Chamber a collective announcement of their determination not to attend the sittings.

THE COTTON FACTORY of Messrs. Slater and Co., at Carlisle, has been closed in consequence of the refusal of the spinners to work up a quantity of Surat cotton, with the quality of which they were dissatisfied.

FOUR MONSTER STEAMERS are being built in New York for the California trade, to be called the Retribution, Retaliation, Restitution, and Revenge. The first named has been launched. They are each to be upwards of 300 ft. long and 3000 tons burthen.

MR. RAREY has been varying his attendance on the sick horses of the Federals with a trip in a reconnoitring balloon. The sensation was, for "purely strategic reasons," not long indulged in, as a rifle ball through the edge of the car gave him sharp notice to quit cloudland.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has signified to the Mexican priests who took refuge at Rome when the French expedition was planned that they may return under the protection of the French flag. They had plundered the people, and were accordingly deprived of their lands in return by the Juarez Government.

TWO ENGLISH GARDENERS, named Douglas and Cunliffe, are reported to have been stripped, nearly flogged to death, and dragged off to prison with their hands tied behind them, a few days ago, by a party of Cossacks who visited the estate of Count Branitzki, of Biatorczeff, Southern Russia, for the purpose of arresting the Count.

A GIRL IN CLONMEL was desirous of administering a "love potion" to her sweetheart, but thought it prudent to try its effects first upon another young man, who swallowed a small portion and was immediately taken ill. On examination the bottle from which the draught was taken was found to contain as much poison as would kill twenty men. It is feared the young man will not recover.

THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION.—Saturday last being the anniversary of her Majesty's accession, there was the usual firing of guns from the park and the Towr, and loyal demonstrations were made in the course of the day. Flags were flying from the Government offices and from various church towers, and the guard-ships at Woolwich, Sheerness, &c., were dressed with flags. The day was made an occasion for reviewing many of the rifle regiments of volunteers. The Duke of Cambridge intended to have reviewed the City brigade, of which he is Colonel, at Richmond Park, but his engagements would not allow him to proceed so far, and the review took place, at his request, in Hyde Park. His Royal Highness expressed himself in terms of high commendation of the state of the regiment. A brigade field-day and sham fight, under the command of Lord Ranleigh, also took place at Wanstead, in Epping Forest, and about 3000 volunteers attended. They consisted of his own regiment and several bodies of men from the district of the Tower Hamlets and the parts adjacent to the forest. The London Irish, the Queen's, and several other regiments had also field-days on the occasion.

DWELLINGS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—On Saturday last Lord Stanley and the rest of the provisional committee recently formed for the erection, on a large scale, of comfortable and commodious houses for the working classes in the metropolis, and at reasonable rents, held a meeting at the Mansion House, with the view to further the project, which is to be carried out by a public company on the principle of limited liability, and with a large capital calculated to yield a return of five or six per cent. £20,000 of the proposed capital (£50,000 had, it was stated, been subscribed), Lord Stanley, Mr. H. Edwards, Alderman Waterlow, Mr. S. Morley, and Alderman Finnis, who were empowered to add their number two other duly-qualified shareholders, were elected directors, with power to complete the formation and registration of the company; and it was arranged that as soon as this was done the erection of the proposed dwellings should be at once commenced. The directors intimated that they would be glad to hear of building sites in densely-inhabited districts of the metropolis.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT OXFORD.

In our last week's Number (see page 419) we gave an account of the Oxford Commemoration festivities, which were this year graced by the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. In accordance with the promise made last week, we now lay before our readers a variety of Engravings illustrative of the proceedings. Some of these—the reception by the Mayor and Corporation, the arrival at the deanery, the distribution of prizes to the volunteers, and the conferring of the diploma of D.C.L. on the Prince—are fully described in the account already published by us, and to that we beg to refer our readers. Other incidents, however, we may now further describe.

SCENE IN THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE.—UNDERGRADS. IN THEIR GLORY.

No portions of the Oxford Commemoration are in themselves more remarkable, or more likely to strike a stranger, than the proceedings in the Sheldonian Theatre. Both on Tuesday, the 16th, and Wednesday, the 17th, the ebullitions of student humour were more boisterous and expressive than on most similar occasions. Of the proceedings on the first-mentioned day we have already given some account; but, as the Wednesday display was even more exuberant, a few further details will, we are sure, be read with interest.

A more brilliant and exciting demonstration was probably never witnessed within the precincts of the University than the Commemoration which was held on Wednesday, the 17th, in the Sheldonian Theatre. The somewhat similar ceremonial in the same place on the preceding day, animated and striking as it was, appeared tame in comparison, and, instead of robbing it of any freshness or interest, rather furthered its success by serving as a sort of full-dress rehearsal.

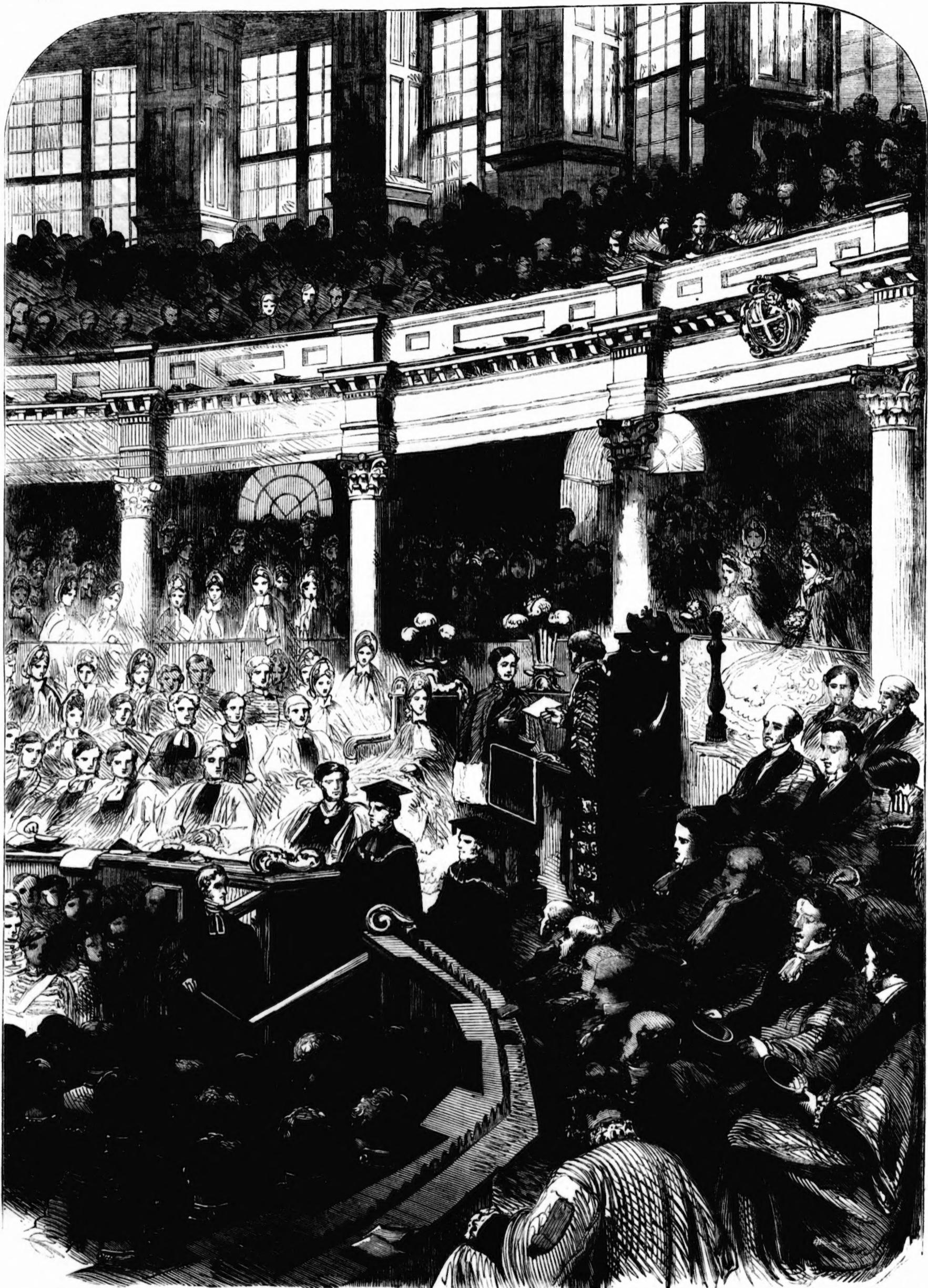
As early as nine o'clock in the morning the undergraduates were admitted to their gallery in the Sheldonian Theatre, probably in the hope that if they gave full play to their lungs during the two hours and a half previous to the ceremony they would be reduced to a condition of inarticulate hoarseness when the proceedings really commenced. The young men, as was expected, cheered lustily during the whole of the interval, but at the end of it, as was, perhaps, not expected, their energy seemed to be increased rather than impaired, for the roof rung almost incessantly with their voices until they quitted the theatre. The topics to which they referred in their concise, stentorian way, presented the usual wide range. The ladies, as they gradually filled what might be called the boxes, of course received the gallant notice of the "gods." There were cheers for the "dark girls dressed in blue," for the ladies in white, and for the ladies in pink, for the married and the single; and when a voice suggested a cheer for the "pretty girls," some one of more catholic taste insisted that there ought to be no invidious distinctions, and that the compliment should be made to include all the ladies present. These delicate attentions to the softer portion of the audience were alternated with expressions of hatred and contempt towards the male visitors generally, and especially to such as on entering did not deferentially uncover on the threshold, or who had white hats. It may readily be imagined with what deafening execrations the entrance at one moment of three men so lost to all sense of shame as to wear hats of the obnoxious hue was greeted. It was resented as a deliberate conspiracy to outrage the feelings of the most refined class in the University. Theology next engaged the consideration of the undergraduates. The author of *Hypatia*, as may be supposed, is an old favourite; but the rumour that he had been proposed as a candidate for honours and rejected on account of the alleged heterodox tendencies of some of his writings has added tenfold to his popularity. There were repeated cheers for Kingsley, and groans for Pusey, although, soon after, Pusey was cheered too. Jowett and Colenso were also named with applause, and then the heretics, being rather sore in the throat, subsided, and the orthodox bellowed their best in honour of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford. The mention of these respected prelates at once suggested, it can only be supposed by way of antithesis, the name of General Butler, for whom the most cordial and emphatic groans were given. Cheers for the South and for Poland followed, the Northern States and Russia being growled over as oppressors. A political turn having thus been given to the proceedings two or three all at once claimed a hurrah for Lord Palmerston, which was given accordingly. After this vigorous performance the "upper classes" were not equal to the exertion required to do justice to Lord Derby. So they rested for a minute or two paying only faint compliments to Mr. Gladstone and Sir Stafford Northcote, and then raised a great cheer for the chief of the Conservatives. In the general laudation "our noble selves," of course, did not escape favourable notice. By-and-by, when the list of topics was becoming exhausted, the "ladies" were again proposed as quite an original and novel idea, and accepted as such by the students, who repeated a good many other cheers in the same way.

Meanwhile the Heads of Houses and other dignitaries and distinguished members of the University were assembling at Exeter College. Shortly before half-past eleven the Prince of Wales arrived, and the procession was immediately formed. The heads, with their huge silver maces, led the way. Then came the Chancellor of the University, the Earl of Derby, looking solemn and stately in his gorgeous robes, stiff with bullion and brocade, having on his right hand the Prince of Wales, in his red doctor's gown, with the blue ribbon of the Garter across his breast. The Archbishop of Canterbury, with the Archbishops of York and Armagh, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Carnarvon, Earl Stanhope, the Earl of Airlie, Lord Harris, Lord Dufferin, the Bishops of Oxford, London, and Lincoln; Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Newdegate, and other eminent visitors, the Heads of Houses, and the candidates for degrees, followed.

The undergraduates became very excited when the great folding-doors were thrown open and the Chancellor and his suite filed in; but their enthusiasm knew no bounds when Lord Derby immediately afterwards went out and returned, conducting the Prince and Princess to the chairs of state, each surmounted by a large golden triple plume, in the upper part of the hall. The illustrious pair were greeted with a prolonged burst of cheering, such as could be heard only where lungs and loyalty are combined in the most perfect development. Then the fine organ rolled forth the National Anthem, and the entire company, standing up, sang the familiar and impressive words. At this moment the theatre presented a brilliant picture with its concentric belts of colour rising from the dark central mass of masters of arts, through the crimson ring of doctors, and the variegated circle of the ladies' gallery, to the closely-packed throng of undergraduates under the painted ceiling, where fat little cupids tumble about in ecstasy at the "triumph of religion and art over envy, rapine, and ignorance." After the singing there was another lusty huzza or two for the Queen, the Prince and Princess, and the Chancellor of the University, and then the business of the day began.

The Chancellor read in Latin the list of candidates proposed to be admitted to the honorary degree of D.C.L. The names were then severally put to the vote, the Chancellor asking, "Placet ne nobis doctores? Placete magistri?" There were, of course, a few absurd "non-placets" from the upper gallery, coupled with such reasons as "Certainly not; he doesn't shave," "He's not good-looking," "His hair won't curl," and so on. The proposal was, however, declared unanimously carried, and then the "silver pokers" marched off and brought in the candidates, who were each introduced in a graceful and appropriate Latin speech by Dr. Travers Twiss, the Regius Professor of Civil Law.

This ceremony over, the Rev. R. Mitchell, D.D., the Public Orator, delivered the Crewian oration in praise of founders and benefactors. The students, however, were in no mood to hear the discourse, and treated the unfortunate orator as badly as a Boxing-Night audience generally do the soliloquising villain in the drama before the pantomime. He was assailed with a running fire of personalities, and there was a ceaseless accompaniment of shouts and groans to his sonorous Latin periods. The Chancellor was appealed to not to permit "the man in the rostrum to make faces at him," and to punish him for his bad grammar and false quantities. Now and again, when the orator made himself heard for a few words, there were patronising cries of "That's good—for you," or "What a jolly



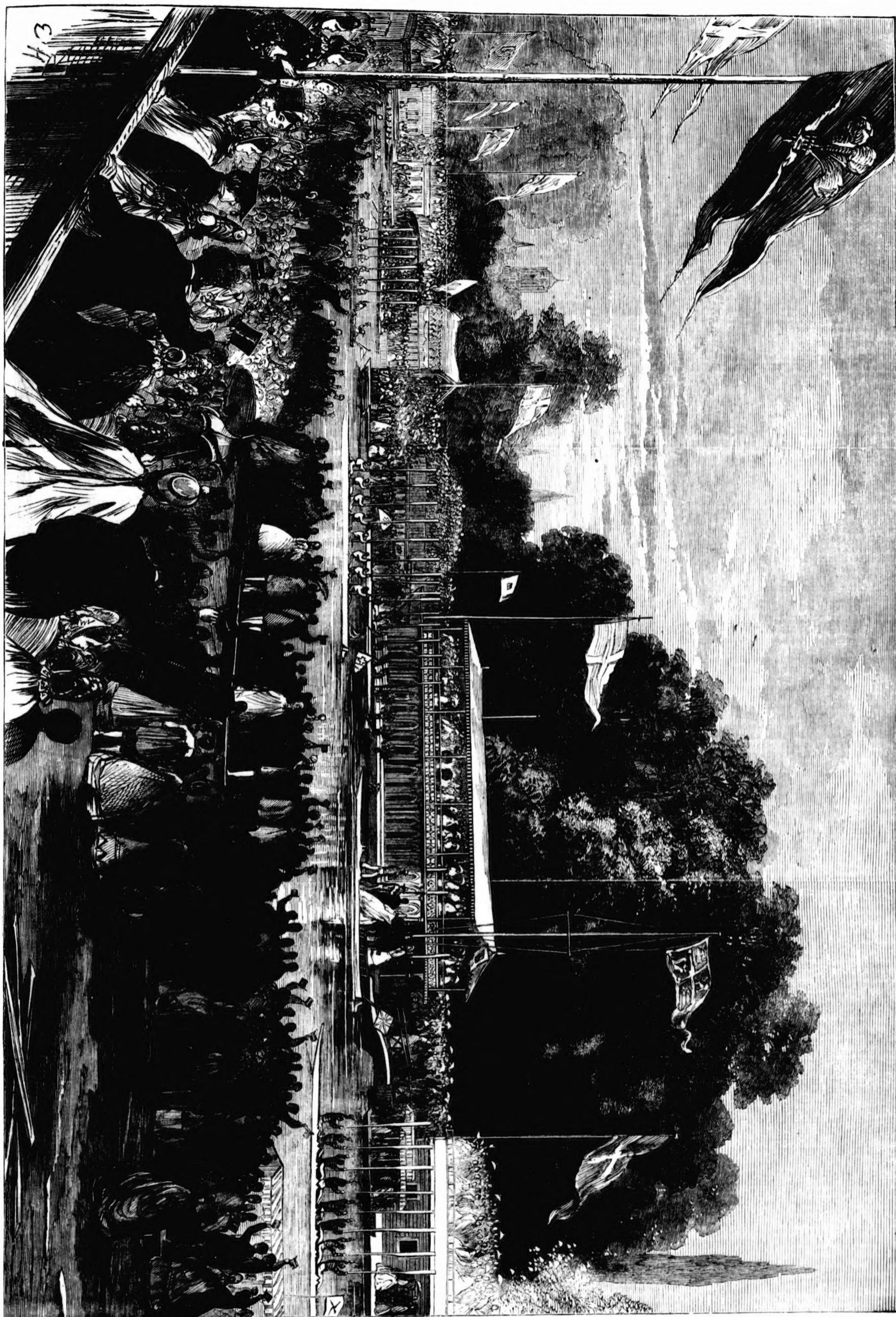
THE EARL OF DERBY, AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, PRESENTING THE PRINCE OF WALES WITH HIS DIPLOMA IN THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE.

old lunatic," in the drawing Dundreary style; and once, when the orator paused in disgust, some one called out, "He's going to faint; give him a glass of water," which at once elicited an unanimous shout, "Oh dear, he never drinks it." It was impossible to resist a feeling of compassion for a grave and reverend seignior thus set up in a pulpit to be baited by the students, for it is much the same every year; but then one must remember that he is more than a match for

the young men at any other time. The prize compositions were next recited by the successful competitors, who received a little more patient hearing. This closed the proceedings, and the Prince and Princess, with the rest of the company, left in the same order as they entered.

THE BOAT PROCESSION ON THE ISIS.
In the evening the time-honoured procession of boats took place on

the Isis, which, perhaps, was never seen to greater perfection than on this day, and was, for its animation, one of the most striking and picturesque scenes which have ever been witnessed even on these occasions. The evening was a glorious one, bright, yet not too warm, and with every tree and meadow looking their freshest and greenest after the previous day's rain; and not only all the population of Oxford, but all the country population for miles and miles round



THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES ARRIVING ON BOARD THE UNIVERSITY BARQUE.

had flocked in to witness this the most attractive and popular of all the fêtes of the Commemoration. All the noble, parklike meadows were thronged with thousands of gaily-dressed visitors; the great rows of University barges, covered with their gay awnings, and tremulous with little fluttering flags, were filled with richly-dressed ladies; swarms of little boats went flitting quickly along the water in all directions, like summer flies; and Folly Bridge, the banks and shores, up and down, far as the eye could reach, were covered to the very water's edge with eager, joyous spectators. The most distinguished visitors were invited to the University barge, which was most tastefully decorated with groups of flowers, though the hues of these were quite thrown into the shade when the ladies began to assemble, and with them the University Dons in their rich academic gowns, purple, black, and red. Precisely at half-past six their Royal Highnesses, amid the most tumultuous cheers, came down and embarked in a beautiful eight-oared boat, and went some little distance up the river that the Princess might view the scene. A most wonderful one it was, as, amid tremendous cheers, which went echoing over the meadows, and waving of caps and handkerchiefs, the Royal boat shot swiftly up to where the procession of college boats was forming, and then returned to the University barge, on which their Royal Highnesses landed and took their seats. The first event was an eight-oared race, just got up to show her Royal Highness the speed at which these light cutters could be driven over the water; and they certainly did pass the Royal barge at pace which was wonderful, both crews straining to their oars, making them bend like twigs, and sending their light craft forward with a visible jump at every stroke. The Princess seemed delighted with the contest, and not the less so for the race ending in a dead heat, though as they passed the barge each crew made strenuous efforts to gain even a foot upon the other, but all in vain.

Then came the procession of the boats, and Trinity, as at the head of the river, sweeping proudly up in its "eight," which came flying over the water as silently and as quickly as a bird, stopped in its own length before the Royal barge that the boats of all the other colleges might do homage to their supremacy and past year's triumph over them. This they did in the usual manner as they came by in long procession, tossing their oars in honour of Trinity, and then waving their hats and cheering in honour of the Princess, who seemed deeply amused and interested in the whole proceeding. This over, the whole long file of boats swept under Folly Bridge, and, turning there, came back again in procession, two and two abreast. All again tossed their oars as they passed the Princess, but many, more ambitious, not content with tossing them, ventured on the more difficult feat of standing up in their frail craft, which an incautious movement would overturn, and holding their oars at arms' length high in the air. This requires great skill to do without risk, as was shown on this occasion, for, the juniors in Balliol's torpid boat venturing on it as they came in front of her Royal Highness, one of them lost his balance, stepped on one side, and instantly turned the boat over, pitching its crew of nine into the water. The incident seemed startling enough, and the Princess uttered an exclamation of great alarm, and jumped up from her chair as the other boats near instantly dashed forward to pick up the crew. Fortunately there was no real cause for alarm, as when the accident occurred the boat was near the shore and the water was not up to the shoulders of the men, who stood up in the river at once, and, taking off their straw hats, cheered to the Prince and Princess, and the Prince gave them back a hearty cheer in return, and the Princess waved her handkerchief to them as they walked coolly to the shore dragging their boat and oars after them. The rest that passed were more careful after this how they rose in their boats, so that no other ducking happened; and at seven o'clock their Royal Highnesses returned to the deanery through a dense throng of spectators.

THE LATE ROYAL VISIT TO THE CITY.

We have already given full accounts (see ILLUSTRATED TIMES for June 13 and 20) of the Royal visit to the City, and now complete our series of illustrations of this auspicious event with a couple of Engravings—the one representing the Royal supper-table, and the other the return of the Prince and Princess of Wales from the supper-room. A few words will be sufficient to explain these illustrations.

The Royal party supped in the Council Chamber, which presented a grand and Royal aspect. Its pretty lantern and tapering roof had been exquisitely gilded and decorated by Mr. Crace, and from the four columns on which the daintiest rests depended large gilt baskets filled with flowers. The lights from above were so arranged as to fall softly upon the portrait of her Majesty in her coronation robes. The east end of the chamber was filled in with mirrors, which were just sufficiently seen between the tall, rich, green banks of heaths and ferns and palms to make this most beautiful end of the room seem like a wild luxuriant garden in the tropics, in the centre of which a scented fountain cast its fresh, cool spray into the air. The sides of the chamber were hung with two of the richest and finest of the series of Giulio Romano's tapestries. The subjects here were the meeting of Scipio and Hannibal and the triumph of Scipio. The north end of the chamber was devoted to a display of the wealth of the wealthiest Corporation that the world has yet seen, and from the floor almost to the ceiling this side of the chamber was hidden by massive gold plate, which in glittering array rose tier above tier in one great pile, over which the statue of George III. seemed to keep watch with outstretched hands. In mere appearance it was a magnificent and most suggestive pile of almost unknown value. Here were salvers as large as baths, quaint beakers, and flagons formed like dragons, bears, and cocks; tall old tapering cups of the time of the Tudors, with finely-pointed lids like spires; salts as big and massive as modern footstools, made at a time when they were really used to mark distinction as to rank, when the Court sat above the salt and the Livery below this ancient emblem of hospitality and welcome. The City companies all poured forth their wealth of cups and salvers to place them at the service of the Lord Mayor on this occasion; and the silver plate was sent literally by tons, but scarcely any but gold was allowed a place on this magnificent buffet. Almost the only exception made to this rule, as regarded the City plate, was in favour of the Pepys cup—a cup which, from its chasing, was ten times more costly than if it had been made of the purest gold. Between the groups were arranged tall candelabra filled with lights, some of ten and twenty branches, and all of the same costly metal and workmanship; while just between the masses of goldwork Messrs. Garrard, who had the entire arrangement of the buffet, had skilfully broken the glittering line by the introduction of some noble works in silver of their own.

THE RETURN FROM THE SUPPER-ROOM.

After supper the Royal party returned to the ballroom, but, in doing so, were conducted through the Court of Aldermen in order that the Princess might enjoy the "little surprise" which the Corporation had prepared for her, and which we mentioned in our Number for June 13.

THE BRITISH ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The new asylum of the British Orphan Institution at Slough was inaugurated by the Prince and Princess of Wales on Wednesday. The number of scholars belonging to the asylum had increased so largely by the end of last year that the board of directors determined on moving their whole establishment from Clapham-Rise to more spacious premises. The building at Slough, of which they have bought the freehold, was formerly known as the Royal Hotel, and was built at a time when it was supposed that the Great Western Railway would never be carried into the town of Windsor. The completion of the railway ruined the proprietors, and the hotel remained closed for many years. The directors of the Orphan Asylum have added another story to it since it has been in their possession, and the healthy situation and spacious grounds surrounding it render it peculiarly fitted for the purposes to which it is now applied. We publish an Engraving showing the building in its enlarged form on page 445.

The loveliness of the weather and the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales drew a large number of visitors from London and the surrounding counties. The Prince and Princess arrived by special train from London to Slough at four o'clock, and were

received at the station by a deputation of directors, by whom they were conducted to the reception-room prepared for them in the main building. A procession was then formed, and proceeded from the west door through two lines of pupils to a dais prepared for their Royal Highnesses, beneath a large marquee erected on the lawn, and communicating with the main portion of the building. During the procession the National Anthem was played by the bands of the 18th Hussars and Commissioners, who were in attendance during the whole day. On the arrival of the Prince and Princess at the dais the pupils of the institution sang the Old Hundredth Psalm, and an address to the Prince was read Mr. Thomas Tilson, the chairman of the board of directors.

The Prince, having briefly replied to the address and expressed the satisfaction the Princess and himself felt at having their names associated with so excellent an institution, formally declared the building to be for ever dedicated to the purposes of the British Orphan Asylum, and announced that Mr. Edward Mackenzie, of Maidenhead, had made the munificent donation of £12,000 to the building fund of the institution. The Bishop of Bath and Wells (in the absence of the Archbishop of York) then offered up a prayer, and the ladies of the Royal Academy of Music sang a beautiful chorale composed expressly for the occasion by Dr. Sterndale Bennett. The ladies who had collected purses for the institution then filed past in an almost endless procession, leaving their offerings on the table in front of their Royal Highnesses. The National Anthem was then sung by the ladies of the Royal Academy, the solos being charmingly given by Miss Fanny Armytage.

The procession then re-formed, and conducted their Royal Highnesses to the south lawn, where they each planted a specimen of the Wellingtonia gigantea in commemoration of the event of the day. During this portion of the ceremony the bands performed the Danish National Anthem, after which the Prince and Princess and suite were conducted by the officers of the institution to the station, whence they took their departure for London.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

AMATEUR Ambassadors are new things in the world's history. In the days of the Bourbons, gentlemen not duly accredited might as well have attempted to get into Paradise in spite of the Peri at the gates as to obtain admittance to the French audience chamber. But it seems any adventurer may now gain an admission to the Emperor of the French without any other credentials than audacity. Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Lindsay have lately had an interview with Louis Napoleon. Their object was to sound his Imperial Majesty on the subject of American intervention. "Has your Majesty altered your views touching the American contest? Does your Majesty still desire to join England in an attempt to reconcile the belligerents?"—"I am still of the same opinion. I should be delighted, in concert with my esteemed ally, to offer my services to put a stop to this terrible carnage." And the amateur self-constituted diplomats have come away delighted with the frank simplicity and urbanity of his Imperial Majesty. The journey to Paris was preparatory to the motion which Mr. Roebuck is to make shortly in the house, and Mr. Lindsay is to second; but, from all I hear, Mr. Roebuck's motion will, all this notwithstanding, find little acceptance with the House of Commons. It argues zeal, and philanthropy, and patriotism in these gentlemen thus to supplant Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell, if they could but see it; but they cannot. Neither can the House of Commons. Volunteer Secretaries of State and amateur Ambassadors without credentials and without responsibilities do not stand high in the estimation of our old-fashioned statesmen and politicians.

Lord Raynham is again trying his hand at legislation. It would be really a good thing to do—to move for a return of the cost which the country has incurred in printing the bills which he has introduced into Parliament. He has now three or four upon the paper: one bill to regulate flogging boys at school; another is to prevent the practice of midwifery by persons not duly qualified—that is, to abolish all the midwives, of course. Neither of these bills will pass. To save time, they have been allowed to be introduced and read a first time; but, on the second reading, Sir George Grey will of course put his foot upon them. There is, however, to be some talk upon the Flogging Bill, I hear. Mr. Bass is watching his opportunity to have a say. Report says that there have been some strange doings in the flogging way at one of our public schools, that a correspondence between Mr. Bass and the Head Master ensued, and that in the end Mr. Bass removed his son, not, however, because he was flogged, but because Mr. Bass did not choose to have his son in a school where such practices were allowed. Perhaps some legislation is necessary in these public schools; but, if so, Lord Raynham is not the man to initiate it.

Rumour says that Parliament will be prorogued about the 21st of July. Her Majesty wishes to leave England before the 1st of August, and it is desirable that she should sign the commission for prorogation before her departure. Otherwise a messenger must be dispatched with it to Germany, and the House be kept waiting idle whilst he is on his journey.

When Dorker, a pupil at Do-the-Boys' Hall, was in *extremis*, the attention lavished upon him was extraordinary. He had a Johnson's Dictionary for his pillow, and Mrs. Squeers herself brought him up tea and toast when he could not swallow. Does Mr. Dickens exaggerate? Read Mr. Isaacson's (Mr. Ellice's) letter in the *Times* of Wednesday about the overworked girl who died in his den, and judge this "sweater" out of his own ungrammatical mouth. Working men's clubs and lodging-houses by all means, my Lords and gentlemen, but a little less work as well. To be beneficial and get a good percentage combined is beyond price. Why does not Mr. Isaacson take shares in the Society for Providing Dwellings for the Labouring Classes?

Military men are very indignant at the description given of the place of confinement wherein poor Sergeant-Major Lilley died. It is considered unjust to condemn as "the black-hole of Calcutta" a room large enough to work a gun; and, moreover, the ordinary dwelling-place of a Sergeant Major. It is certainly not understood by civilians that "under arrest" implied confinement to a spacious dwelling-room, and not a transfer to a prison, and it may be useful to mention that in the opinion of more than one officer of high rank, the sole legal offence laid to the charge of Colonel Crawley is the placing of the sentry inside the room.

I hear some very unpleasant rumours concerning the pictures at South Kensington. Many of the Wilkies have been in a bad state for some time past, and now numerous others are said to show symptoms of cracking, while in some of the best Leslie's symptoms have become reality. Whether this is from the lighting the rooms with gas at night, as I have heard suggested, or whether the evil is exaggerated, I leave art-pundits to decide, but steps should assuredly be taken to preserve our magnificent collection from suffering from its transfer to the "Boilers."

The hospitals of London seem determined to furnish food for gossip. St. Thomas's and Bethlehem have been in everybody's mouth for weeks, and now St. George's is being talked of, though in connection with a far less important matter. The matron is dismissed, it is said, improperly. Governors are "whipped" up from the provinces and elsewhere, and the entire question is discussed. The upshot of it is that peace is restored, the matron is reinstated, and governors retire gratified at having exercised their franchise and proved their governing power.

In estimating the progress of the French troops in Mexico, have you considered what it is to storm a city built with an eye to earthquake contingencies? Walls six and eight feet thick, doors so massive that when once opened they remain open for the day, square courts, admirably adapted to sustain a siege, are ordinary features in large Mexican towns. To take these, if they are defended at all, is, I am told by a French officer just returned from the scene of operations, much as if the assailants were besieging a regularly-fortified town. The solidity and strength, intended in the first instance as a safeguard against the ravages of earthquakes, becomes equally available as a protection against an enemy, and here we have an intelligible explanation of the tardy progress of the war.

You like the *Saturday Review*, don't you? A nice, wholesome, generous-minded print; a little too benevolent, perhaps; always erring on the side of kindness, but thoroughly unpragmatical, unpretentious, and utterly opposed to self-assertion. By-the-way, perhaps you can tell me what is meant by the following passage, which I quote from the issue of June 20? "There, after a while, during Mrs. M'Lachlan's temporary absence, the old man murdered her with a cleaver. He then made her swear to tell no one, and gave her the property, that the blame might be laid upon robbers." *Verbatim et literatim*. But how could he murder her during her temporary absence? and when he had murdered her, how could she swear to tell no one? and what good was the property to her, a murdered person?—We know that the Saturday Reviewers are all University gentlemen, who were sent to Oxford and Cambridge, *ad capiendum ingenii cultum*, and who came away chock full of it.

They are, therefore, incapable of making any grammatical error; and yet there does seem something odd in the above paragraph, doesn't there?

"The serpent is shut out from Paradise," says Shelley; but he finds his way into religious periodicals. In the "notices to correspondents" of *Good Words* we have come across the following delicious morsel, in which, it will be observed, the usual courtesies of Parliamentary, parochial, and literary debate are sacrificed "for the satisfaction of correspondents and others":—

In reply to several clergymen of the Church of England, who have written us in reference to an onslaught on *Good Words* and its writers, which has lately been made in the *Record* newspaper, we beg to state that we have at present no intention of taking any notice of it. If we should ever do so it will certainly not be to defend ourselves or our contributors against such groundless and illiterate calumnies, but to illustrate from them the low condition to which criticism has fallen in the columns of a journal which, strange to say, claims to represent the opinions and the spirit of a section of the Evangelical party of the Church of England!

The articles in the *Record* are characterised by such sustained malevolence, gross misrepresentation, low vulgarity; and shocking irreverence in the application of Scripture, as to deprive them of the privilege of literary courtesy. They can have no other effect than to degrade their author and publisher.

We think it right to state, for the satisfaction of our correspondents and others who feel so justly offended by these articles, that, though their writer professes to be an attached member of the Church of England, and speaks of it affectionately as "our own beloved Church," and of its creed as "our own Thirty-nine Articles," yet, incredible as it may appear to every Christian gentleman, he does not belong to the one nor has he subscribed to the other. He is, we are ashamed to say, the Presbyterian minister of a chapel somewhere in Chelsea.

These are not very "good words," though they contain some good hitting, and will be, to Gath and Askelon, good fun. I confess, for my own part, that I take a malicious pleasure in seeing people get into trouble who try to dodge both heterodoxy and orthodoxy, especially if they make it pay.

What is the New Theatre Company doing? I see the broker advertises his cessation of all connection with it, Mr. Boucicault has not played since the great Jordan trial, and the "Westminster" is shut.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Having listened with rapt attention to the "Strange Lecture," as delivered by Professor Pepper at the Polytechnic, tremulously noted the demeanour of the apparition to be seen nightly at the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, and been a careful spectator of "The Haunted Man," just brought out at the Adelphi, I consider that I have graduated in ghosts, and am entitled to express my opinion as to their relative merits. As a ghost exhibitor, then, I decided to give the palm to Mr. Benjamin Webster. He gives us a greater variety than Mr. Lane, and his ghosts are less unmeaning and less rollicking than those seen by me at the Polytechnic. And yet the ghost drama hangs fire somewhat, and is sufficiently tedious. The audience appear to want more ghost and less drama. Either Mr. Dickens's story is not suited for the stage or it has not been well adapted by the playwright employed. This is certain, that, out of a well-filled house, a very small minority comprehended why the chemist was haunted, what was the lesson taught, or how the maleficent influence was defeated by the natural goodness of Millie Swidger. Miss Simms considerably wrung her hands, opened her eyes, giggled, and was impulsively emotional in the last-named part; but these qualities, even when exercised conjunctively, failed to realise the woman who "was so calm and quiet" that she laid the ghost and restored the troubled chemist to his better self. Mr. Phillips played Redlaw with some feeling, but was too solemn and unearthly throughout, making the contrast less forcible between the real man and the ghost than it ought to be; while Mr. Billington either forgot his part or considered "vain repetitions" an embodiment of the character of William Swidger. The best scene in the piece lies between Mr. Toole and Mrs. Alfred Mellon, who play Mr. and Mrs. Tetterby respectively with both pathos and humour; though why they should lapse from one phase to the other, upon the appearance of Miss Simms or Mr. Phillips, must have been a profound mystery to such of the audience as were not previously acquainted with the story. I am so acquainted, but I fail to remember that the young Tetterbys, on their retirement for the night, wore short nightgowns over their ordinary dress, or that they went to bed in their boots, or that one couch sufficed for the entire family. Johnny Tetterby, as played by Master Brown, deserves a special word of praise for his painstaking and humour; while the make-up and "childish treble" of Mr. C. J. Smith, as old Swidger, were both natural and effective. But the piece is too long, "the connection between the tableaux" is not clear, and the chief interest lies with their ghostships. The heavy framework, consisting of two pillars in the centre of the stage, and a facade above, appears to be an indispensable condition of the spectral illusion. It exists at the Britannia (at the Polytechnic the field was infinitely smaller) as well as at the Adelphi, though at the latter its presence is less peculiar, from the old-fashioned belongings of the student's room, and from the stage being perfectly flat (a great point) instead of suddenly sloping up at an angle of 45°. Green baize carpeting has, I suppose, some mysterious connection with the success of the ghost, as I never see one without the other. The chief objection to the large pillars I have mentioned is that they entirely obscure the apparitions from a large portion of the audience. Half the time they were present they were not visible from my seat, while a constant request from the gallery to "pull up that rag," and to "give us a sight of your ghosts, Guv'nor," told me that the heavy curtain half down, however necessary to give substance to the shadows, was regarded as personally injurious by the gods. With these exceptions, I cannot speak too highly of the management of the ghosts, and the piece is well put upon the stage.

The first appearance of Mr. Walter Montgomery on Saturday evening last drew to the PRINCESS's a crowded audience, great curiosity having been excited by the announcement of his first performance before a London audience; for Mr. Montgomery had what I may call an *Era* reputation, sharing with some dozen others the advantage of large type advertisement, and eulogistic—highly eulogistic—criticisms in that kindly-intentioned organ of theatricals; but he yet wanted that metropolitan impress—that London hall-mark—without which all provincial plaudits are nothing worth. This, let me at once state, he has not gained. To say that Mr. Montgomery made a great success would be to assert what his warmest friends know is incorrect. His figure, carriage, and voice are all in his favour; but, if I am to judge him by his personation of Othello, I say that he is well practised in the conventional rendering of the character, that he is thoroughly respectable, but that he lacks that "afflatus" which is essentially necessary to the coming man—whenever that long-delaying individual may arrive—who is to startle the world as a great Shakespearean actor. He who does this will have to be great in his genius as an artist and great as a student. I cannot think that Mr. Montgomery has any well-founded aspiration to the latter position. What he has seen and learned he reflects fluently and with sufficient grace, but there was no spark of originality from first to last. He has a thorough knowledge of dramatic usage, but the genius which startled London audiences in Garrick and Edmund Kean is certainly not to be found in Mr. Walter Montgomery.

If Mdme. Ristori plays Elizabeth again everyone should go and see her. The piece is wretched, the acting triumphant—artistic in make-up, movement, and oratory. Such sights we afford us but seldom in England—thematically speaking, the land of the duffer.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE LONG RECKONING.
(Continued from page 429.)

CHAPTER XIV.

From looking at the theatre, it was an easy transition to talking about the plays. Lady Julia had a quick intelligence for plots and situations. Jarnwith gave her a concise sketch of one of the skeletons, and Whitmarch, as its author, of course had a word or two to say in amplification.

Some of the performers did not see things quite in the author's light. His amplification led to a little discussion, and the discussion to a few fragments of exemplification. Lady Julia made a suggestion or two which showed a certain dramatic insight, and it was proposed that they should go through the rehearsal with her as a substitute for the invalided absentee.

Lady Julia wasted no time on troublesome protestations of incapacity—"If she could be of any use in filling the vacancy, till Lady Wolverstone insisted on carrying her away, she would like it of all things." What was more, she played the part with great tact and vigour, making much more of it than Mary Hartoft had ever done, nor was it any great wonder she did so.

Mary was a lively, spirited girl, whose main predominance among the young ladies of the family circle (besides her being Lady Wrotesworth's eldest granddaughter) arose from a certain importance of manner and decision of will, but, above all, an unquestioning conviction in her own mind that she was the predominant young lady. She had a fine figure; her features, without being severely classical, had the characteristics of high English breeding. Her eyes, hair, and brilliant colouring made her effective-looking. Her vivacity and energy lent her a semblance of intellectual superiority. But when all was said that could be said in her eulogy, it did not extend to beauty or genius. She acted very nicely, she sang very nicely, she talked very nicely; she looked very nice, she moved with grace and dignity beyond the standard of niceness, and there alone she exceeded her high average scale of young lady-like perfections.

Julia, on the other hand, had a vivid imagination of her own, was a close and delicate observer of character in others, and possessed the gift of animating the mask of manner she carried in her memory by temporarily identifying herself at will with any phase of human presentation which it suited her to personate.

It would take too much space to give a detailed account of the performance. Time and scene—Paris during the reign of terror. Lady Julia (Justine), was the daughter of Citoyen Montargis, a democratising aristocrat, who, like the proverbial pigs cutting their own throats in swimming down stream, had discarded his titles, gone in for the Revolution, and was involved in the unmetaphorical throat-cutting of the period.

Before the Revolution, a young protégé (Valentin) of base extraction but considerable talent had become his secretary. (This was Jarnwith's part.) He had, of course, become enamoured of Justine at a distance, and violently jealous of Amedée, a dashing young officer about the Court (Whitmarch), who has a romantic loyalty and devotion to the Queen, which afterwards gets him into troubles somewhat modelled on those of the Chevalier de Maison Rouge.

The political drama out of doors moves on. The humble secretary has become a popular orator at the clubs and a powerful demagogue, while his previous patron is suspected of retrograde tendencies and aristocratic sympathies. Edmund Strensall represented this unhappy, heavy father, who conceals under ostentatious liberalism the pangs of an alarmed conscience, intensifying from remorse for what he had helped to bring upon his order to terror on his own account.

The scene opened with a conversation between the proud daughter and the humble secretary, in which he sounds her as to the sincerity of her own and her father's republicanism.

She is very pat with her revolutionary catechism on the rights of man and equality in the eye of nature, at the same time treating him with much condescension and congratulating him on the figure he is beginning to make in public. She takes an interest in his advancement as a curious social result of the new régime, developed under her own eye on a sample of the popular element selected from the roturier class on her father's *terres*. She speaks of his "dear picturesque old mother in her peasant costume, to which she still adheres, with all her pride in her son's becoming a great man." She tells him of the "sadness she perceived in the great blue eyes of la belle Jeannette, the miller's daughter, who used to be his partner at the village fêtes. He has not been to his home so long: he makes himself regretted. Whatever these troublous times do to his head, she hopes they will not make his heart disloyal to its old affections."

The young man's face darkens at this language of sentimental superiority. "Why do you always recall to me the humiliating recollections of my youth—the hateful memory of social inequalities which have perished? Is it generous to remind me of that which makes me blush for my origin?"

"If social inequalities have really perished, all origins are now equally noble."

"The links of slavery may be forged into the axe of vengeance, but the old scars where the chain cankered into the flesh still ache when they are touched."

After a bitter retrospect of "the noble rage and genial currents of his soul, repressed and frozen by chill penury," a touching history of the growth of a deep, consuming passion, held like the young Spartan's stolen fox beneath his cloak, gnawing his entrails in the meantime, he makes a flaming declaration of his passion, and is rejected with polite scorn. Then he begins to show the cloven foot; and, after an outburst of revolutionary rhodomontade and a hint or two on the dangerously bad taste of family pride, swears to make her repeat her supercilious treatment of his pretensions.

She laughs at his threats. He leaves her in high dudgeon, and prepares to tighten his colls on the body of his benefactor, whom he knows to be amenable to the pressure of fear.

In the meantime the aristocratic *émigré* officer has come to Paris in disguise, on a mixed enterprise of love and loyalty.

At a frightful risk to himself and all the parties concerned he has an interview with his lady love. He is recognised, watched, and his schemes are detected by the penetrating eye of his rival, who, when all is ripe for action, announces to the thunderstruck father that he has a company of soldiers waiting to rush in at a concerted signal to seize a traitor harboured in his house.

Then there is a bargain; the ex-secretary being in a position to barter the safety of his former patron against the hand of his daughter. This transaction, however, is very much complicated by the feelings of the young lady and the presence of the gallant young officer, who cannot easily be brought to understand why the affair should not be amicably settled between him and his rival with small-swords in the *salle à manger*.

All proposals of this kind are met by Valentin with the muzzle of a cocked pistol, which, if its report be heard in the street, will instantly fill the house with a troop of armed ruffians under the command of a creature of his own.

Now this creature (Gaspard) is a low ruffian from the same neighbourhood, whose eternal gratitude Valentin thinks he has earned by getting him out of a poaching scrape long ago, which he did out of love for Jeannette, Gaspard's cousin. But Gaspard, during Valentin's absence, has attempted, unsuccessfully, to console Jeannette, who, remaining faithful to her unfaithful Valentin, has soured Gaspard's mind with jealousy.

Gaspard has come to Paris to disabuse Jeannette of her ill-placed affection by keeping her informed of Valentin's proceedings. Jeannette appears on the scene, and has vehement explanations with a Justine, whom she accuses of using the arts and advantages of a high-born demoiselle to rob her of a low-born lover whom, when won, she only treats as a toy of her capricious vanity. Jeannette is rebuked by Justine, and turns upon Valentin with bitter reproaches.

In the meantime, Gaspard has taken measures to get rid of Valentin by giving information to the Committee of Public Safety against him as a secret accomplice of Montargis and Amedée. They

are all arrested together at one fell swoop, in which even Jeannette is included; for, when Gaspard would have carried her off, she accuses herself of complicity in all Valentin's misdemeanours, resolved at all hazards to go to prison with her lover. The whole party are condemned to die. There is a worthy old Abbé in the batch of prisoners for next morning's executions, who unites Justine and Amedée in marriage, and the grand finale is the substitution of the guillotine for a chaise and four, when the gay and gallant lover leads his fair and radiant maid in bridal array on to the scaffold, to make their wedding-trip into eternity.

According to the original scheme, Valentin was to remain obdurate to the last, and die unreconciled to Jeannette; but to this arrangement Jarnwith had a strong objection.

"It seems so ungracious, in the presence of death, and with the example of the other happy couple before my eyes, to reject the persistent devotion of this poor Jeannette, who has specially sacrificed herself for the pleasure of dying with me. It is not only ungracious, it is absolutely unnatural. Valentin need not be so bad as that. Why not let me relent at last? My love for Justine has always been more than half vanity and ambition. When a fellow is going to have his head chopped off in an hour or two it takes that sort of nonsense out of him."

"Why not let you relent? It would make the whole thing commonplace at once," said Whitmarch. "It equalises the destiny of the hero and villain of the piece. I want Valentin's sulky sourness and Jeannette's desolate misery to make our gleam of happiness in death bright by contrast. It is all one can do to bring out such a wedding in a cheerful light with any depth of gloom in the background one can relieve it with. If you fall soft at the end you spoil the piece by disturbing the concentration of interest on the pair whom mutual love makes happy in the presence of death."

"As to disturbing, I think the uncomfortable feeling for poor Jeannette will so jar on the sense of satisfaction in your happiness that the audience will be divided between two minds. It seems to me that it would heighten the beauty and triumph of your success in being jolly under the circumstances, that the contemplation of your joy in contrast with Jeannette's wretchedness should break down the proud obstinacy of Valentin's disposition. The glory of your love will be attested by its salutary influence. You may have ever so much gloomy background during your first raptures, but in the final illumination everybody ought to be lit up with the radiance of rose red. Come, Margaret, dear, make your last appeal, and let us put it to the company what the effect of a modified repentance would be."

Jeannette: "You loved me once, Valentin! Oh! at least, you said you loved me in those days. Tell me you loved me truly then, and I shall die content. Who knows but in a better world, where truth shall reign, and error, and confusion, and discord are no more, your love may be restored. Surely, when souls are tuned to eternal harmony, no true love can be vain. Surely, your life chimed truer to itself when it found its echo in a loving breast. In that sunny land above the clouds the fruit shall ripen of which our happiest hours on earth were only the blossom. You do not love me now; but if you remember love, and how sweet it was to love and be loved again; if you have felt the bitterness of loving without return, tell me you pity me; tell me you would love me if you could; tell me you forgive me for troubling you with my wearisome constancy; tell me that anger and scorn no longer stand like demons between your soul and mine to divide us still in death; for if we die together in Christian charity, I can trust Heaven for all beyond the grave."

"True heart, proved doubly true by my untruth, do you ask forgiveness of me? Me, more than doubly false. False lover, false patriot, false worshipper. Death is the great idol-breaker, and the wretched shams I have shrined in my desecrated soul tremble and fall prone. For golden love I set up tinsel vanity; for noble patriotism, selfish ambition; for trustful faith in Heaven, my own rash reason. Oh, Jeannette, even when I was most besotted in the drunken orgie of my illusion your memory often came accompanied with holy influences that should have been the graces and the guardians of my existence. With sad eyes they came, like exiles looking on a ruined home; and now, when the very ruin must be razed, and the last wreck of all I might have been sinks beneath gory mire, swallowed up in the furrow of that cursed plough I set my hand to, still you cleave to me, my own good angel—last enduring link between this lost soul and its better fate. Pray for me, Jeannette; faith and hope are gone, but charity lingers yet while you are here. I did not think the approach of death could so unman me. I feel, in the presence of the world of spirits, like a bewildered child relying on the guidance of a loving hand to lead it through the dark."

"Oh, yes," said Whitmarch; "that's all very well in its way, and very pretty sentiment and morality, but it isn't in character with the part. Valentin is not the sort of fellow to go in for that kind of thing. He would make it a point of pride to keep up his consistency to the end and die game, chaffing and reviling everybody."

"Well, if it must be so, here goes for the other thing. We will suppose the touching avowal that 'She can trust Heaven for all beyond the grave,' spoken without troubling poor dear Jeannette again, and I take her up in a fiendlike spirit."

"Beyond the grave! What lies beyond the grave? What lies, indeed? Echo repeats, 'What lies?' What glittering lures and ghastly bugbears, daubed by priestly cunning on life's blank drop-scene! The bungling tricksters cannot work their plot within the compass of stage unities to make its scheme hold water. They cannot get their rusty *deus ex machina* to come down and make short work. So dark words of threatening and of promise, uncontradictable, unprovable, must make up the deficit—

Behind the veil great Rhadamanthus reigns. And squares up all accounts to suit our book.

Beyond the grave! Why, I sprung from nothing that I know of. All I have toiled and striven for on earth has come to nothing; and the most probable and satisfactory sequel is that I shall go to nothing. Upon my word, charming Jeannette, we agree admirably. I, too, can trust Heaven for all beyond the grave—that is to say, everything comprised, precisely zero. As to trusting the said benevolence for any trifles on this side annihilation, there you get into decimal fractions of something, and the case is not so clear. But come, Jeannette, after all, we are companions in adversity. I have been fool enough to love Mlle. Justine, and she has not been amiable enough to love me. You have been so amiable as to love me, and I have not been wise enough to love you. You are crossed in love, and do not care to live. I also. Look at our happy lovers, how they smile. You and I ought to be more cheerful than they are. They have at least their honeymoon to lose, and we nothing worth mentioning. They, no doubt, think they would not be tired of one another after a month or two. Ha! ha! Shall we trouble the respectable Abbé to unite us? Two weddings are as short as one; and we, by way of variety, can illustrate the other side of marriage without delay; for Hymen has two faces, like Janus. In front of the altar a smiling Hyperion—behind the altar a leering Satyr. We will leave the smiles and kisses to them, and begin our married life in sober earnest with taunts and teats. Weep Jeannette, be wretched, agonise yourself like an aching tooth. Ha, ha! The sharper the ache the more cheerfully we go to the dentist. Our little appointment this morning with that eminent practitioner will be quite a pleasure. He will wrench us out of Dame Nature's jaw in a twinkling; and when once she has spit us out in a mouthful of blood, our thrills, and twinges, and pangs are quieted for ever by a simple solution of continuity."

"There is the most unamiable representation I can give of Valentin's last speech to his wobegone sweetheart and confession of his religious faith. If anybody likes it better than the other, I don't. Shall we take the general vote, or is it not safer to trust the first impression of a fresh mind? Which version do you prefer, Lady Julia?"

"It is scarcely fair to bespeak Lady Julia's support with such an ex parte appeal. The fact of the matter is, you cannot be satisfied without touching up your moribund miscreant with a few heroic qualifications. You want to make him die noble, generous, and tender-hearted, after he has lived selfish, ungrateful, and base. I, as a conscientious and consistent dramatist, protest against such a sentimental solecism. As to asking Lady Julia to stand umpire to decide who has seen less of the thing she is to judge of than anybody else, it seems to me a most unreasonable imposition on her good nature."

Now this speech, in black and white, does not seem to mean much,

but as it was spoken and understood by those whom it concerned, its interpretation ran to the effect that Lady Julia was not an impartial judge after Jarnwith had been carrying on a vigorous flirtation with her at luncheon; and even in the acting, where he ought to have made himself odious, he had contrived to say a great quantity of unnecessary fine things, which, though they might be theoretically thrown away on the ideal Justine, were calculated to reach the young lady invested with the character.

Jarnwith acted a great deal too well to please Whitmarch, and the part of the upstart, ungrateful secretary had expanded into much more importance than it held in his original scheme. Whitmarch himself was a lively, rattling actor, with plenty to say, but no great variety of tone or seriousness of passion. He was unpleasantly conscious of being reduced to a figure of subordinate interest in his own play, which was a still more deplorable deviation from his programme.

He was also far from flattered by the very slight interest Lady Julia appeared to take in meeting him again. He did not, perhaps, sufficiently consider the fact that he had been the only young man of the party at Stephenakes. Still, he was heir-presumptive to an earldom, and was not accustomed to be treated as of small account. He had rather a patronising manner with young ladies and a predisposition to think himself in greater danger from prospecting dowagers than he actually was with two lives between him and his session.

Probably Julia rather rose than fell in his estimation by her perfect indifference. He had been a little piqued by the cavalier nod she gave him at meeting; and, with the sublime self-importance which belongs peculiarly to young men of expectations, he held himself loftily aloof until he gradually became aware that she was unconscious of his reproachful coolness, and fully occupied with Jarnwith.

If it had been Melmerby or Strensall, that would have been intelligible enough; but she had pitched on the only younger son of the party. "She knows what she is about," said he to himself, on second thoughts, at luncheon. "If she went on like that with any of the eldest sons of the connection there would soon be a hue and cry of indignant matrons about her ears. She is beginning with the modest end of the wedge." Moreover, he now and then saw her give a glance in Strensall's direction, and Strensall was looking rather uneasy. "She is making him jealous, not me," was his conclusion; but it did not prevent him from being a little jealous himself.

And so it came about that he did the high sentimental scene of transcendental love and matrimony in prison, at the point of death, with a worse grace than usual, and remonstrated with Jarnwith and ignored Lady Julia's criticism, and made Margaret extremely uncomfortable by keeping her heartrending and embarrassing appeal in suspense when she felt that the world was turning dark before her eyes. Her own speech, Jarnwith's sympathetic and then his mocking rejoinder, were difficult alternations. It would have suited her situation well enough to have wept; but her efforts to restrain her tears were successful. She felt as if her real sorrows were worse than the dramatic distress she was representing, and that the guillotine in earnest would have been a welcome release. It had been revealed to her with cruel distinctness that she loved, at a moment when the unconscious object of her love was busy scattering the treasure of his heart on another.

One brief afternoon was enough to enshrine the new idol in a place in his regard far beyond the matter-of-course, familiar, brotherly sort of affection which had grown up between them since her early childhood. Alas, that what had so long seemed nothing more than this, on her side also, should so suddenly and inappropriately have ripened into love under the nipping blight of jealousy!

It is an unusual phenomenon in nature: the early frost completes the maturity of the harvest over which the late sunshine lingers.

We may be trundling comfortably on patent axles along the high road to nowhere in particular, but we somehow never arrive at true love without accident. The easygoing carriage stops short at a broken bridge. Down we get to plod through the mire and scramble over the rocks, and struggle through the brambles of a path impassable to luxurious vehicles. On that rough track, in the treacherous footing of the ford to which it leads, or perched on the slippery stepping-stones wide apart in the foaming torrent, we overtake the old-fashioned *ignis fatuus*, which detests all modern conveniences of locomotion, and comes no nearer the smooth turnpike-roads of life than to lure away a few exceptionally romantic wayfarers from the fashionable causeways frequented by carriage company.

As a rule, the carriage company adhere to the smooth highway at all hazards. If any obstacle occurs, the carriage turns back to go any number of miles round, and the company stick to the carriage which qualifies them. As for any scrambling short cuts to happiness, that sort of thing may do very well for undistinguished pedestrians. It is better to put up with artificial love than to make a footsore, torn, and draggled pilgrimage through sloppy, thorny, and stony places with no certainty of finding the precious *sangreal* when all is done.

John Jarnwith knew nothing of Margaret's distress. The harsh manner and mocking tone he had used towards her was simply adopted to prove Whitmarch's theory in the wrong, and it was embittered by his impatience of the "consistent and conscientious dramatist's" dogmatic perseverance. He was beginning some sharp rejoinder, and the party were in a fair way towards the sixes and sevens to which Whitmarch had pronounced Lady Julia's presence a probable provocation, when that proverbially inharmonious combination of numbers was superseded by an arrival of elders in the theatre. Lady Julia was wanted, her grandmother was impatient, the carriage was at the door; it would be pitch-dark before they got home.

Julia was in great spirits and in a great hurry, but as she ran upstairs with Margaret to get her things, she did not fail to observe a notable change in her companion's manner.

"What has made you so sad all of a sudden, dear Margaret?" she said, tying her bonnet-strings carefully in a becoming bow, "is it the melancholy part you were acting so earnestly?"

"I don't like acting," said Margaret, with a sort of shudder, though she could not have been cold after running such a distance.

"You act uncommonly well, though. I never saw anyone who seemed to feel more genuinely; and you give the impression of restraining rather than exaggerating the sentiment, which always doubles and trebles the effect."

"Let us compliment one another," said Margaret, with a faint smile. "Everybody admired your acting."

"Except Mr. Whitmarch," said Julia, who had several times required to be put right in details.

"Oh! I did not count Mr. Whitmarch."

"He is not expected to admire anybody but himself, I suppose."

Margaret shook her head, and perceived in doing so that she had a dull pain in her temples which the movement seemed to rattle into a sharp throb. She put her hand to her forehead, and said she thought it must be the gas in the theatre that gave her such a headache.

"Then lie down and rest yourself, dear. Don't weary yourself running about with me. I shall be able to find my way this time."

But Margaret would not allow that she was so bad as all that. So she had the advantage of seeing that Jarnwith was there to hand Lady Julia to the carriage, and of hearing him say he supposed he should meet her at such and such county balls, where she herself would not be; for Margaret was not to come out till next winter. And she saw through the glass door what a beaming smile he got as the carriage drove away. For the great lamps of the portico were lit, and the evening star shone faintly in the fading glow of a red wintry sunset over the carriage roof.

When he came in again Margaret had vanished. But he was not thinking of her, and it never crossed his mind that Margaret was in any way concerned as to who might be in possession of his thoughts.

He underwent a good deal of chaff in the smoking-room (whether the young men resorted about that time to fill up the space between dark and dressing for dinner with cigars and billiards) about Lady Julia. But he took it all in good part, and gave it back with interest, making wonderful winning hazards and sacking several pools. Strensall that afternoon played much below his average, and did not join in the chaff about Lady Julia. Though John made no denial of the impeachment, and spoke enthusiastically of his new flame without embarrassment, Edmund knew the artifice of confession and avoidance, and understood that his cousin was more touched than his careless confession seemed to indicate.

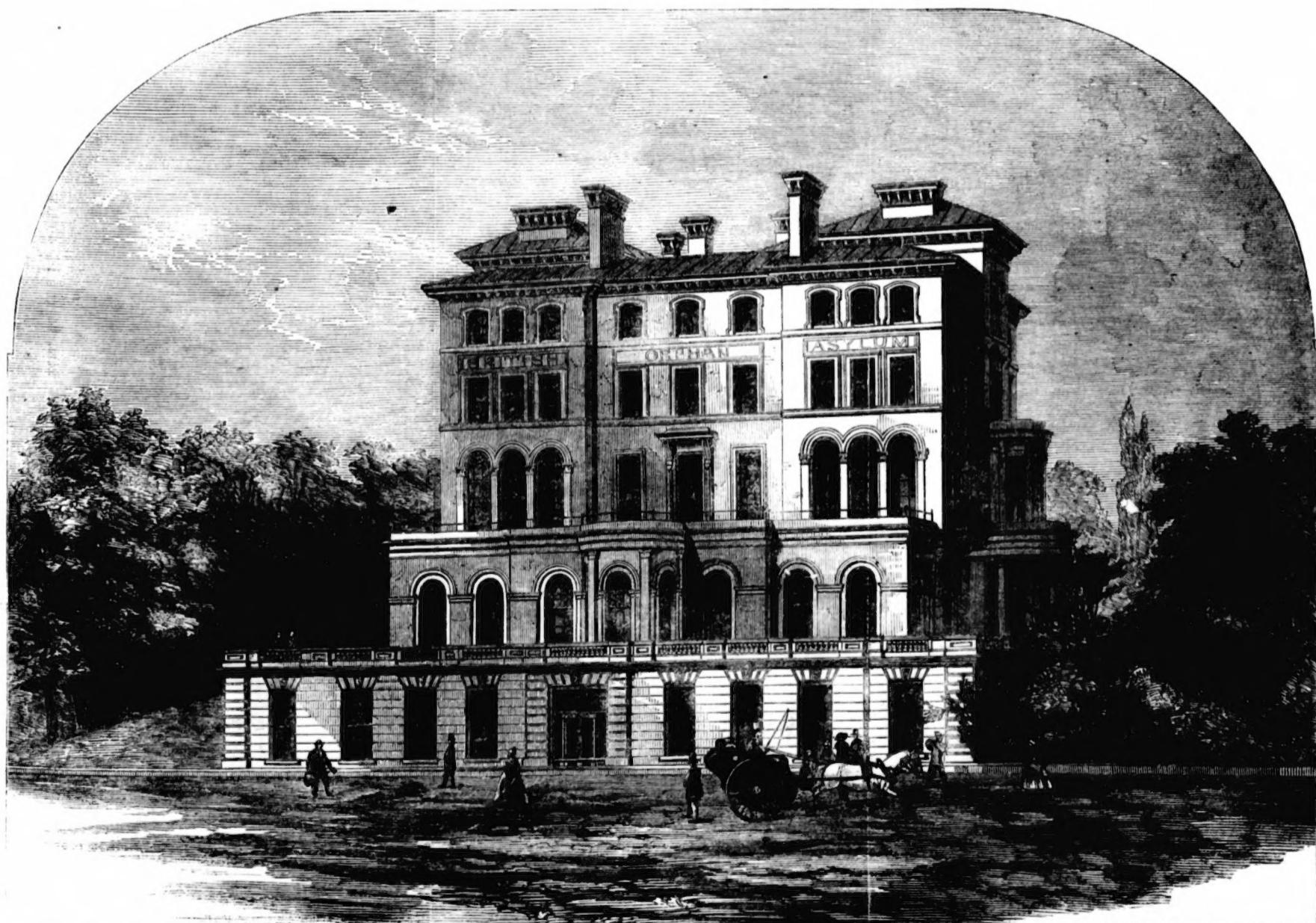
(To be continued.)



THE GRAND BALL TO THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT GUILDFORD.—THE ROYAL SUPPER-TABLE.—SEE PAGE 412.



THE RETURN OF THE ROYAL PARTY FROM THE SUPPER-ROOM.



THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE BRITISH ORPHAN ASYLUM, SLOUGH, BUCKS.—SEE PAGE 442.

Literature.

The Horses of the Sahara, and the Manners of the Desert. By E. DAUMAS, General of Division commanding at Bordeaux, &c.; with Commentaries by the Emir Abd-El-Kader. Translated from the French by James Hutton. W. H. Allen and Co.

From time immemorial it has been acknowledged that Arabian horses are the real aristocracy of the chevaline race. Highly respectable animals of any other families have ever been proud of an alliance with them, and to their acceding families the "handle" of honourable has ever been mentally awarded by their owners, patrons, and acquaintance. From the French of General Daumas Mr. James Hutton has translated a something analogous to a horse "peerage." The General is the Burke or Debrett of the Arabian stable, differing in plan from those authorities only in respect of telling how his subjects derive distinction from giving proofs of the best blood, and not claiming for them the highest honours as possessors of the purest blood alone. The English people will gratefully receive the volume, although, as a rule, most hunting gentlemen will not give way to any Arab in knowledge or love of horseflesh. At something like this the French have long been aiming, and the present Emperor has been especially solicitous to improve the Gallic breed. At the cheerful baths of Boulogne-sur-Mer nothing is more common than to see French jockeys, with French jockey beards, French jockey birdseye neckerchiefs, landing countless animals, the best that England could spare; and, moreover, it will be remembered how the gratitude of the Emir Abd-el-Kader prompted him to send two Arab horses as a present to the Emperor. These precious steeds are said to be direct descendants of the Prophet's mare—although which particular mare, if any, of the Prophet, remains in obscurity. In the flight from Mecca he availed himself of the services of a she-camel; but that fact can but slightly assist the inquiry. Alborach was the Ass on which he rode to heaven; and it is known that he possessed a mule named Doldul, which he rode in his campaigns. As

Great events from little causes spring,

we can only conclude that the Arabian horses presented by the Emir to the Emperor could have been no less than the lineal descendants of a mule, an ass, or a camel.

Setting all genealogy aside, a few words will suffice to describe this volume. General Daumas, having his interest excited "on the spot," and enjoying the honour and advantage of the Emir's friendship, resolved to collect all possible information concerning the "horses of the Sahara." The result is a mixture of fact, fancy, and credulity at once full of "sound practical information" and poetic mythology. The "Origin of the Horse," described in a letter from Abd-el-Kader (page 8), is a good specimen of Oriental poetics:—

"When Allah willed to create a horse, he said to the South Wind, 'I will that a creature shall proceed from thee. Condense thyself.' And the wind condensed itself. Then came the Angel Gabriel, and he took a handful of this matter and presented it to Allah, who formed of it a dark bay or a dark chestnut horse (red mingled with black), saying,

"I have called thee horse, I have created thee Arab, and I have bestowed upon thee the colour *koummite*. I have attached good fortune to the hair that falls between thy eyes. Thou shalt be the lord (*sid*) of all other animals. Men shall follow thee wheresoever thou goest. Good for pursuit as for flight, thou shalt fly without wings. Upon thy back shall riches repose, and through thy means shall wealth come."

The horse was created before man:—

When Allah had created Adam he called him by his name and said unto him:—

"Choose between the horse and borak" (the mule).

Adam answered: "The fairest of the two is the horse." And Allah replied:—

"It is well; thou hast chosen thy glory and the eternal glory of thy children; so long as they shall exist my blessing shall be upon them; for I have created nothing that is more dear to me than man and the horse."

The reader will observe that Adam was very young at this period. It is evident from his use of the word "fairest" that he had not yet mastered the degree of comparison.

With such legends, stories, and anecdotes the book is rendered of great interest to any reader; even to any reader who has never enjoyed more than a donkey ride on Ramsgate Sands, or the hilly country of Greenwich and Blackheath. The "practical" chapters of the volume describe the "moral qualities of the thorough-bred," the "swiftness of the race;" the early weighting of Arabian horses; variety of breed, rearing and breaking-in, grooming, and shoeing; together with constant pages of observations furnished by the great Emir himself. The second part treats of the manners of the Desert; an account of the interesting life and adventures of the various tribes, their warfare, their sports, their vices and virtues, from the first welcome of the child to death and funeral rites. Strangely disjointed and unconnected as are these several chapters, the reader will yet gather from them a most refreshing and interesting knowledge of life, equine and human, in the great Sahara.

London Scenes and London People: Anecdotes, Reminiscences, &c. By ALEPH. W. H. Collingridge.

These miscellaneous papers—"Anecdotes, Reminiscences, and Sketches of Places, Personages, Events, Customs, and Curiosities of London City, Past and Present"—have already acquired a certain stamp of value whilst passing through the columns of a weekly contemporary. In their present form, the handsomely-printed volume will be a welcome addition to the thousands of museums of London books and things which are always forming, and will go on forming to the end of time, and then commence all over again. If we attempt to

Catch the manners living as we fly,

the manners, the everything which goes to make up materials for the archaeologist, there is little fear of our damaging the interests of the future antiquarian. Much of importance will always be disregarded whilst the events are in process of taking rise; and it is our present ignorance of antiquity which alone guarantees a satisfactory knowledge of to-day for posterity of to-morrow. There is no chance of the subject losing interest. London is a well-abused place, certainly. But London is precisely like two other things—marriage and doctors. Everybody abuses them; but, sooner or later, everybody bows down before them. "London Scenes" is a volume of gossip, not a handbook; yet supplying much handbook information. Amiable feeling and moralising accompany the descriptions of scenes and people, the writer's years enabling him to give personal sketches of many old characters quite undreamed of by gay young pilgrims of the London flag. Amongst the quaint chapters will be found the pigeons of Guildhall and the mock election of the vagrant Sir Harry Dimsdale, as Mayor of Garratt; whilst many public buildings, streets, and persons, of course, obtain an historic glimpse "from the earliest period to the present time." There is much interest in the sketches, which have occasioned some research, and appear to be sufficiently accurate for all save the gravest purposes. Here and there some elaboration is desirable. For instance, as of Christ's Hospital. "Among the notabilities of Christ's Hospital Leigh Hunt and Charles Lamb are conspicuous." So they are; and so are many more names; and, therefore, the not difficult work of a list of celebrities would have been well bestowed. The mere mention of Hunt and Lamb is sufficient to suggest Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who was a blue likewise. Mr. Macready, also, should not be forgotten, and is easily remembered. We would recommend the writer, in other papers which he promises, to give an inclusive tone to his papers, rather than the touch-and-go. But, as it stands, the volume cannot fail to give much pleasure. The few illustrations are remarkably well executed.

The Boy's Handy-book of Sports, Pastimes, Games, and Amusements. Ward and Lock.

Any young gentleman from the age of six up to sixteen can scarcely fail to be one of the most accomplished young nuisances under the sun—at least to the large class of misanthropists who hate to see anything like human nature coming out of flesh and blood. Messrs. Ward and Lock's handsome volume is well calculated to bring out all that is and should be boyish in boys, and thus to lead the way for developing all that may be manly in man. Divided into twelve parts,

it treats of outdoor games and amusements, gymnastic exercises, swimming and archery, playroom games and evening sports, seaside amusements and pursuits, horses and horsemanship, gardening, cricket and ball games, farmyard and household pets, country pleasures and pursuits, chess and draughts, and general subjects of interest to boys. "From pitch and toss to manslaughter" is a grown up phrase indicative of a large-minded readiness to join in a variety of lively sports. But, without backing that forcible illustration, we can at least compliment the juvenile world of readers on possessing a manual of all desirable amusement, from "lagging's out" to cricket and chess. Exercising, at something short of a respected middle-age, a memory for the delights of happy childhood, we can honestly testify to the care and conscientiousness of this volume. The game of "Rounders" appears to have suffered no material change; whilst "I spy I" remains vigorously concealed round the dubious corner, or in the umbrageous densities beneath the baker's barrow. Generally speaking, boys will easily understand the rules here laid down for their diversion, and will certainly find their holiday mentor of vast importance in settling that momentous question, "What shall we play at?" (At the tender age of boyhood nobody is particular about the inelegance of terminating a sentence with a preposition.) The active games are mingled with chapters of parlour magic, conundrums, forfeits, &c., and the whole is carefully and lavishly illustrated. By-the-way, the compiler has been careful to avoid everything girlish—girls' games, manners, expressions, &c. That is well. Every well-cultivated boy should be able to truss and roast his sister's doll with all the skill and willingness of a professed cook.

Poems. By F. G. TUCKERMAN. Smith, Elder, and Co.

There was an American gentleman of the name of Tuckerman who wrote (we fancy we remember) a scheme of conversations between the poets or *on* the poets; but we are not aware whether this is or is not the same. We dare say he will be hurt when he finds that critics can find nothing stronger or more cheering to say about his book than that it shows—as it undoubtedly does—a very considerable amount of poetic faculty spoilt by mannerisms, some of them of a decidedly Yankee character. In a poem which is not avowedly comic we do not admire such rhymes as "trust to" and "paganus too," "usurp us" and "purpose," "sink or swim, stone," and "black fire or brimstone." It is a very easy sort of trick, and has no sort of effect beyond that of pulling up the reader with a sudden jerk every now and then, and making him wonder that an author should go so much out of his way for no good end.

A collection of sonnets, in which we gather that the poet is mourning for his dead wife, who has left him a little girl, contains a great deal that is beautiful and noble; and, indeed, all through the book there are so many narrow escapes of poetry, and such excellent workmanship, that it seems hard not to be able to find warmer words in which to speak of these compositions. If the author would only be quite simple, we think he might take a respectable rank among American poets. Certainly he has more concentration than Lowell, more subtlety than Longfellow, and more imagination than Whittier, but his tortuosities of language spoil all.

We owe him something for recalling to our minds the beautiful legend of Rhotruda. Charlemagne had a page named Eginald, a *filius nulli*, who fell in love with the King's daughter, met her on the stairs one day, fresh from the bath, made "bold declaration," and was accepted as her suitor. One night he had crept into her room and spent a long time with her. The minutes flew by till the palace bell struck one. Startled at the lateness of the hour, the too happy lovers looked out, and found that there had been a heavy fall of snow. The footsteps of a man across the courtyard, from the Princess's chamber to his own, would tell tales in the morning. What was to be done? The girl took her sweetheart on her shoulder, and stepped lightly over the snow with him. But the old King, who happened to be up late counting his money or something of that sort, looked forth from an upper window and saw the whole transaction. Next morning he assembled the Court, and asked of the lord present what should be done to him who used the King's daughter as a beast of burden. There was a pretty general verdict that the man ought to die. But Charlemagne was only joking, and, since matters had gone so far, he thought it as well to give the girl in marriage to Eginald; and they lived happy ever after!

The book is printed on most abominable paper—paper that can hardly be cut without tearing; although it is thick enough, for that matter. Generally, the quality of the paper on which books are printed has very much fallen off lately, so that the cutting of the leaves has to be done with a fine-bladed knife, and with the nicest care.

Essays on the Pursuits of Women. Reprinted from *Fraser's and Macmillan's Magazines*. Also, a Paper on Female Education, read before the Social Science Congress at Guildhall. By FRANCES POWER COBB. Emily Faithfull.

Miss Cobbe, the daughter, we believe, of an English Dean, and one of the best read and most accomplished women of her day, is probably known to some of our readers by her two essays on "Intuitive Morals" (one of which is in its second edition and the other out of print), as well as by what she has written upon the education, employment, and philanthropic usefulness of women. To readers to whom such subjects are new these collected papers will not be without interest, in spite of the platitudes, bad jokes, and occasional unfairnesses which they contain. Miss Cobbe is a great deal too ready to take up a "cry," and a great deal too apt to assume that her own ideals are the best. She is, for example, so good as to say that the gay omnivorousness of the Italian—involving as it does a comparative indifference to cookery—is "a misfortune." The reason given is, that where the family will eat almost anything "there is wanted a stimulus to wifely cares, and the whole domestic life loses somewhat thereby." It is a pity it did not occur to Miss Cobbe that there must be just as many happy types of "domestic life" possible as there are couples in the world, and that the greatest of all hindrances to "domestic" happiness is the tyranny of authorised patterns. At present she commits herself to this felicitous and elevating moral—Men ought to have dainty appetites, in order that women who can cook may assume more importance.

Something New; or, Tales for the Times. By Several Writers. Edited by EUSTACE WILBERFORCE JACOB, late Captain 39th Regt. London: Emily Faithfull.

This is a small volume of stories, bearing a brief history contained in a short preface. It is issued as a contribution towards the Lancashire Distress Fund, and, having been published by subscription, may be assumed to have met with that pleasantest of all favours ante-natal success. For so good an object we would in any case take the good the gods provide, and be thankful; but, with respect to "Something New," it is possible to look the gift-horse in the mouth and discover indications of a good serviceable animal. The volume contains some eight or nine readable stories, generally full of pleasantry and interest, without pretension, and marked by considerable variety of places as localities for incident. India, China, Norway, and Fairy Land are all touched upon with vividness, which inspires the idea that the writers have visited the scenes described—especially Fairy Land. We may reasonably expect some demonstration of public support for this little volume of good fellowship.

THE SHAKSPEARE CELEBRATION.—The movement to form a committee with a view to the above-named object appears at last to be in a fair way of accomplishment, the design being now taken up by the Shakespeare Committee. At a meeting of that body, held on Monday—the Duke of Manchester in the chair—the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—1. That a national celebration of the three-hundredth birthday of Shakespeare should be held on the 23rd of April, 1864, and commemorated by the erection of a monument in a conspicuous part of London. 2. That, to be worthy of Shakespeare and of the country, this national celebration should be conducted under the patronage of her Majesty and the presidency of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the aid of all classes of the poet's countrymen and admirers residing in the United Kingdom, the British colonies, and in foreign countries. 3. That, with a view to combine in a National Shakespeare Committee the representative men of all classes, the Shakespeare Committee undertakes to invite the co-operation of all local and special bodies, and of eminent personages, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, having Shakespearean objects in view.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE case of the seizure of the *Alexandra* has been during the week the principal topic of interest in legal matters. The *Alexandra* was built by Messrs. Miller, of Liverpool, in a manner and under directions which appear to have rendered it probable that she was intended for use as a privateer or vessel of war in the service of the Confederate States. Acting upon information transmitted through the United States' Minister, the English Government ordered her seizure, and directed the ordinary legal proceedings to ascertain whether she was or was not liable to confiscation. The evidence on the part of the Crown appears to us to have been of the flimsiest description. Certain bulwarks were less high, certain hatchways were less capacious, than those ordinarily used in merchant ships. The vessel was built to insure an unusual amount of strength and speed. Persons known to be connected with the Confederate States had been seen in the shipbuilders' office and continually about the works. There was a Confederate flag in a counting-house there. The witnesses on behalf of the Crown were described by Sir Hugh Cairns, for the defence, as five discharged workmen, one crimp, and two informers or spies. One of the last named was a Charles Randolph Yonge, a native of Georgia, who, having deserted his wife and family, entered into the Confederate service on board the *Alabama*, cruised with her to Jamaica, deserted her, married a wealthy widow at Kingston, possessed himself of all her property and brought her to Liverpool, where he turned her penniless into the streets, and set himself to work as a spy upon British shipbuilders. If the evidence of such a person as this had really been material, the jury might still have exercised discretion in refusing him credence. But the main line of the defence rested upon the law. Sir Hugh contended that there was nothing in the law to prevent our shipbuilders selling as many vessels as they could to either of any two belligerents. The Act on which the prosecution relied only prohibited the arming and equipping of vessels of war. This point was strongly dwelt upon by the Lord Chief Baron, who directed the jury that the execution of an order to build a vessel under the same circumstances as those in this matter was not one of the cases contemplated by the Act, and said it was surely not unlawful for the United States to direct that a ship of a particular description should be supplied to them from this country. He denied that this construction of the Foreign Enlistment Act would have the effect of repealing or nullifying its provisions. What the statute meant to do was not to protect the belligerent Powers, but to prevent the ports of this country being made the seat of hostile armaments for those Powers. In other words, it is said that you should not build a vessel of war to be used against the United States in one of our ports, when in the same port and at the same time a similar vessel might be building for the Confederate States, which would inevitably come in collision with it as soon as it left the port. Many allusions had been made in the course of the case to the Alabama; but he held that, as that vessel left Liverpool un-equipped and unarmed, and as a simple ship, she committed no unlawful act, and they had nothing to do with the fact that at a subsequent period she was armed and converted into a vessel of war at Terceira, which was not in her Majesty's dominions. The offence against which the statute was directed was "equipping, furnishing, and fitting out, or arming" a vessel, and he found from "Webster's Dictionary" that "equipping" meant furnishing a ship with arms, as, for instance, a privateer; and "furnishing" and "fitting out" were equivalent terms.

On this the jury returned a verdict for the defendant. The Attorney-General tendered a bill of exceptions to the summing-up.

The Marquis of Hastings, a youth yet in his minority, was fined £5, and two of his gamekeepers £2 each, for cruelty in cockfighting on a Sunday. The evidence rested entirely on admissions obtained by stratagem from the servants, and from his Lordship by direct questioning, on the part of the officers of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A principle of great importance to the dramatic profession has been affirmed by the decision of the Master of the Rolls in "Fechter v. Montgomery." Mr. Fechter engaged Mr. Walter Montgomery at a liberal salary to play in tragedy, and either in consequence of the continued run of "The Duke's Motto," or for other causes, shelved him. Mr. Montgomery thereupon abandoned the engagement and accepted another. Mr. Fechter filed a bill in Chancery and applied for an injunction, which the Master of the Rolls refused, upon the ground that Mr. Montgomery had accepted the terms proposed on the understanding that he was to be brought before the public and not to be confined to the mere receipt of a salary. This decision will be hailed as just both by the profession and public, both of whom have heretofore suffered by this "shelving" system. In this particular instance, however, there may possibly be excuses to be proved upon the trial of the cause, which is not decided by the result of the application for the injunction.

If it were not for the proof afforded by the police reports and by the daily experience of London pedestrians, it would be hard to believe that certain stratagems, exposed over and over again in the columns of the press, and known, one would be inclined to conceive, almost to every boy in the metropolis, could be continually repeated with success. Nevertheless, such is found to be the fact. A gang of skittle-sharers, by the stalest of stale tricks, has, within the last few days, contrived to fleece a Yankee of £200. He was induced by the old plan to play with confederates with whom he had casually fallen in, and to whom he lost the amount already mentioned. The "mock-auction dodge" appears also to be flourishing in our leading thoroughfares, under the eyes of the public and the police. A passenger was induced to enter one of the dens in which this trade is carried on, and retired as the purchaser of a parcel of so-called electro-plated goods, which he afterwards found to consist of mere worthless lead. It is wonderful that dupes can still be found to provide the folks who get up this kind of scheme with the means of profitably carrying on a business which entails the occupancy of premises in the principal streets and the maintenance of a gang of confederates. The very aspect of the place, with its shabby, obnoxious touter outside, ready upon occasion to display himself under his true colours as a ruffianly bully and to prevent the egress of a non-purchaser, ought surely to be sufficient caution. Within, an assemblage of hooknosed rogues, making sham bids at the appearance of a probable victim, affords evidence obvious enough of the character of the "establishment." Yet gulls are found in plenty, and the magistrates avow their inability to put down the nuisance, and can only recommend the dubious remedy of placarded warnings to "beware of mock-auctions." Everybody knows, or ought to know, that the system is one of organised vulgar conspiracy; and yet the wrong is not only suffered to exist, but the managers find fools in sufficient plenty to render it profitable.

A cause which appears likely to form an English *cause célèbre* is one in which Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson is plaintiff, and Lord Combermere, General Peel, and Earl Wilton, Colonel of the Tower Hamlets Militia, defendants. The action is brought for conspiracy to deprive the plaintiff of his commission. It may probably last yet some days, having already occupied several in its partial hearing. We have no wish, by comment or by details of the partial evidence already given, to attempt to prejudice the cause one way or the other. But we can point attention to one fact disclosed by the counsel for Lord Combermere as a striking illustration of the way in which our military administration is carried out. His Lordship is, by his own counsel it is remembered, described as a veteran of the age of ninety-four, totally deaf, and in such a mental and physical condition that the excitement of an examination in the witness-box would probably cause him to drop down dead! We have no wish to say anything disrespectful of a hero, even in the last stage of human decay and imbecility; but what kind of sympathy is it possible to entertain for "authorities" who place a poor old gentleman like this, however venerable, in a position in which he can clearly be of no earthly use, and in which he runs the risk of sullying a glorious career by the only kind of conduct to be expected from infirmity? Let us respect old age by all means, and show appreciation of a gallant life by all kinds of honour which gratitude can bestow upon it to its latest gasp. But to expose it to ridicule and animadversion by placing it, when bereft of all its powers, in office of high trust requiring activity and intelligence in an eminent degree, is surely not the act either of wisdom or of true reverence. General Peel has cleared himself from all imputation, and a verdict has been received in his favour. Earl Wilton has sworn to his ignorance of the internal affairs of his regiment, also of militia regulations generally. This is frank from the Colonel of a militia regiment.

A chemist and druggist was called in by a person who believed him

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